



Van Gils is Teacher of the Year

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Gerard Van Gils, more popularly known among his students as “Mr. G,” was named the 2017 Teacher of the Year by the Public School System yesterday during the Education Day celebration at Koblerville Elementary School.



ERWIN ENCINARES

2017 CNMI Teacher of the Year Gerard Van Gils, right, poses with Kagman High School principal Leila Staffler yesterday at the Koblerville Elementary School, the venue for Public School System’s Education Day celebration.

Ex-National Guard recruiter sued for alleged scam

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A former National Guard recruiting assistant is being sued by the U.S. government for allegedly defrauding the Army National Guard Recruiting Assistance Program of \$7,000 by falsely claiming to have

nominated four potential soldiers.

The U.S. government, through assistant U.S. Attorney Mikel W. Schwab, alleges that Rota resident Ana Maria A. Mendiola received a total of \$7,000 for the four fraudulently claimed potential soldiers.

The U.S. government is suing

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Van Gils, a teacher at Kagman High School, was selected out of 21 nominees representing all public schools in the CNMI.

He said that winning the prestigious award caught him by surprise as the other nominees are more experienced compared to him.

“I don’t think I was expecting it because I am relatively new in this ca-

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Court blocks overtime expansion pay rule for 4 million

By **MICHELLE RINDELS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A federal court on Tuesday blocked the start of a rule

that would have made an estimated 4 million more American workers eligible for overtime pay heading into the holiday season, dealing a major blow to the Obama administration’s

effort to beef up labor laws it said weren’t keeping pace with the times.

The U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Texas granted the nationwide preliminary injunction, saying the Department of Labor’s rule exceeds the authority the agency was delegated by Congress. Overtime changes set to take effect Dec. 1 are now unlikely to be in play before

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EVERY KID IN A PARK

Fourth graders from the Oleai Elementary School learn about the Marianas Memorial during a visit to the American Memorial Park on Nov. 22. The names on the wall represent the CNMI fatalities during World War II. This month’s field trip was part of the 2016-17 Every Kid in a Park Program to encourage fourth graders around the country to visit their national parks.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

1,730 vehicular crashes this year

» **62 were alcohol-related, one traffic fatality**
» **4Ds proclamation for the month of December**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

So far, there have been 1,730 vehicular crashes in the CNMI this year and 62 of them were alcohol-related, resulting in one traffic fatality, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

In 2012, 32 out of 1,676 crashes in the Commonwealth were alcohol-related. Of those 32, there were three fatalities.

Nationwide, in 2012 alone, more

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President-elect Donald Trump begins backing off campaign promises.

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LIFE & STYLE

It’s been a hectic year for Kanye West. And now he’s in a hospital.

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Local



TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, standing fourth from right, and NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, standing fourth from left, pose with the recipients (seated) of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation scholarship awards. Also in the photo are representatives from TanHoldings and NMC who participated in the selection process for the scholarships. NMC

TSL Foundation awards \$10K scholarships to NMC students

To emphasize its commitment to expanding higher education opportunities for CNMI students, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation recently awarded \$10,000 to Northern Marianas College students who are pursuing their college degrees.

The award was made as part of the TSL Foundation's Scholarship Program, which has been awarding \$10,000 to NMC students annually for nine years.

From a highly competitive selection process, the following NMC students were selected to receive \$1,000 each this year: Alegre, Roy A.; Bigueras, Jullianne C.; Castro, Maria C.; Fernandez, Marchie F.; Reyes, Rachel P.; Che, Jasmine P.; Dizon, Maria D.; Loste, Andrea A.; Somol, Gemma; and Javan, Russell R.

The students are pursuing their degrees in hospitality management, business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, or education.

"For many years, the Northern Marianas College has played a key role in the personal and professional development of CNMI students and, on a larger scale, the CNMI's workforce," said TanHoldings president Jerry Tan. "We want to support that role by providing financial assistance to students who have the potential to excel academically and professionally."

The TSL Foundation is the charitable arm of TanHold-

ings Corp.

"We are deeply appreciative to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for once again providing this scholarship," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez during the presentation ceremony. "The college has a strong partnership with TanHoldings and the Tan family, and we look forward to working with them as we continue to open new educational opportunities and broaden higher education access for our students."

The Tan Holdings Foundation was formed in 2002 and was renamed after the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. The TSL Foundation's main mission is to better serve the regions where it operates to make such communities a better place to live.

The scholarships are based on merit and are awarded on the basis of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The written essay also plays a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

The selection committee was composed of representatives from TSL Foundation and the Northern Marianas College. (NMC)

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Man allegedly raped drunk friend

Police arrested on Sunday night a 32-year-old man who allegedly raped his drunk friend who fell asleep after a party in Gualo Rai.

Manolo Palencia Romolor was arrested on charges of sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Police said Romolor admitted sexually assaulting the victim and that he only stopped when their other friend punched him thrice.

Romolor's bail was set at \$100,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Dec. 1 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for Romolor. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

Police said the incident happened last Saturday, between 2am and 3am, at an apartment in Gualo Rai.

Detective John Anthony Hofschneider stated in his report that the victim went to the Department of Public Safety last Saturday afternoon to file a rape complaint against Romolor.

Hofschneider said that, according to the victim, she had attended a small party at a friend's apartment on Friday night. The victim said she took five shots of liquor and that she became drunk. She said her friend's wife helped her inside her bedroom, where she slept.

While sleeping, the victim felt someone on top of her but thought it was her boyfriend. She then remembered that her boyfriend was off-island. When she looked up, she saw Romolor on top of her. The victim told Romolor to stop, but the suspect continued sexually assaulting her. She said Romolor kissed her hard, causing a small cut on her upper lip.

The victim said she pushed Romolor and her friend's wife, who was sleeping in the same room, got up and punched the suspect several times to get him off of her.

Later that morning, the victim cried and asked her friend to drop her off at her house. She said she was scared and ashamed to report the incident to the police.

The victim identified Romolor in a Facebook photo shown her by a detective.

Hofschneider said that during an interview on Sunday, Romolor admitted kissing his friend, allegedly because the complainant did not resist.

Hofschneider said that Romolor stated that during his sexual assault, his friend's wife hit him thrice so he stopped and that he then fell asleep. Later that day, Romolor allegedly attempted to text the victim to apologize.

Police then arrested Romolor. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Black Friday deals to help start off the holiday season

BY MICHAEL T. SANTOS
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REPORTER

IT&E

Thinking that one day is not enough to satisfy everyone's needs, IT&E will hold a month-long Black November. Its main attraction—the seven series gift bundle that is as low as \$129 and includes an iPhone 7 case, screen protector, 6" charging cable, \$10 iTunes gift card, and a phone.

Triple J

Triple J helps kick off the holiday season with a four-and-a-

half-foot Christmas tree plus color switch at \$69.95 and a 2.1-meter Christmas tree for \$19.95. Other sale items include a refurbished Vizio 58" LED TV at \$849.95 and Seiki 32" LED TV at \$299.95.

Town House

Stop by Town House's three-day sale that will have customers saving up to \$496 on a five-piece living room set, \$250 on a 16-cubic-foot Amana refrigerator, and \$400 on a five-piece bedroom set.

Docomo Pacific

Wishing to share the holidays with its customers, Docomo Pacific offers \$100 off any Samsung smartphone and 20 percent off accessories.

PC Bargain Corp.

Offering no down payments on the iPhone 7 and iPhone 6S Plus, anyone can purchase either of the two at PC Bargain for only \$99 per payday installment.

Cellular PRO

Cellular PRO is selling its iPhone 7 for \$969 and \$839 only. People can also avail

of the 50 percent off on accessories.

Calvin Klein

Starts a sale right with 40 percent off entire store items tomorrow. Calvin Klein kicks it up a notch the following day for an early bird shopping discount of up to 70 percent off on select styles.

Pena House Boutique and Iridescent

For those seeking a change in appearance, there will be a 20 percent to 70 percent off on clothing and accessories.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.

Great savings throughout Joten stores with Butterball turkey at \$1.79 per lb and a 50-lb Diamond G Calrose rice for just \$25.99.

Athlete's Foot

Athlete's Foot gives people a reason to invest on footwear with its buy one, get another 50 percent off deal.

Moonlight Shopping

A warehouse sale sweeps the already low prices of Moonlight, with all items 20 percent off.

R&J Wine-Liquor-Tobacco

For a limited time only, customers can buy one and get another one free on selected bottles, limit two bottles or cases per customer, along with a 50 percent discount on wine, limit to 12 bottles per customer.

YCO Hardware/True

COURT

From Page 1

vast power shifts to a Donald Trump administration, which has spoken out against Obama-backed government regulation and generally aligns with the business groups that stridently opposed the overtime rule.

"Businesses and state and local governments across the country can breathe a sigh of relief now that this rule has been halted," said Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt, who led the coalition of 21 states and governors fighting the rule and has been a frequent critic of what he characterized as Obama administration overreach. "Today's preliminary injunction reinforces the importance of the rule of law and constitutional government."

The regulation sought to shrink the so-called "white collar exemption" that allows employers to skip overtime pay for salaried administrative or professional workers who make more than about \$23,660 per year. Critics say it's wrong that some retail and restaurant chains pay low-level managers as little as \$25,000 a year and no overtime—even if they work 60 hours a week.

Under the rule, those workers would have been eligible for overtime pay as long as they made less than about \$47,500 a year, and the threshold would readjust every three years to reflect changes in average wages.

The Department of Labor said the changes would restore teeth to the Fair Labor Standards Act, which it called "the crown jewel of worker protections in the United States." Inflation

Value

Serving as a gateway to a customer's hardware needs, several items such as a 7-1/4" circular saw sells for just \$62.95 and a 21" 2-N-1 wheel mower is at \$288.05.

iShop

With the joys of giving just right around the corner, customers are treated to a buy-one-get-one free sale on Sketcher products.

PHI Pharmacy

Celebrating the season with good health, PHI Pharmacy offers 25 percent off on over-the-counter items, 50 percent off on selected items, and 35 percent off on supplements and sports nutritional products.

First Hawaiian Bank

With such intriguing sales, if one needs some assistance, FHB offers a holiday loan at 3.99 percent annual percentage rate, fixed for one year.

weakened the act: overtime protections applied to 62 percent of U.S. full-time salaried workers in 1975 but just 7 percent today.

The agency said it's now considering all its legal options.

"We strongly disagree with the decision by the court, which has the effect of delaying a fair day's pay for a long day's work for millions of hardworking Americans," the labor department said in a statement. "The department's overtime rule is the result of a comprehensive, inclusive rulemaking process, and we remain confident in the legality of all aspects of the rule."

Opponents fought hard against the rule, saying it would increase compliance costs for employers who would have to track hours more meticulously and would force companies to cut employees' base pay to compensate for overtime costs that kick in more frequently.

"This overtime rule is totally disconnected from reality," said Karen Kerrigan, president and CEO of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council. "The one-size-fits-all doubling of the salary threshold demonstrated ignorance regarding the vast differences in the cost-of-living across America."

The court agreed with plaintiffs that the rule could cause irreparable harm if it wasn't stopped before it was scheduled to take effect next week.

The Department of Labor could appeal the Tuesday ruling, which might end up at a Supreme Court that includes some Trump appointees.

TEACHER

From Page 1

reer and there are many great teachers who have been doing this for a long time. I am, of course, honored to be named Teacher of the Year, but it was an honor just to be considered among these many great teachers," he said.

Van Gils said he is currently working with KHS on a college preparation program to solve the problem of not having enough college-bound people on Saipan and to help students do well in college.

"We want to help our kids to not just succeed in high school but to succeed in college as well," he said.

Together with KHS principal Leila Staffler, Van Gils

initiated a college preparation program called "Million Dollar Scholars," with the goal to raise money for students planning to go to college.

"Our goal was to raise \$1 million in scholarship money in order to help our students go to college. In the end, we raised \$2.5 million in scholarships, including six Gates Millennium Scholars," he said. "In the entire history of our school, we've never had any GMS, and this year we had six. [A total of] 55,000 people applied for that scholarship. They only give 1,000. Six of my students won that scholarship."

Van Gils wants other high schools to emulate the KHS' Million Dollar Scholarship program.

"I'd like to see high

schools further prepare their kids to go to college, to teach them to write college scholarship essays, and to prepare them in their junior year of high school, for college," he said. "I really like to help other schools. I hope that I'd be invited to speak in those schools and I hope that the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Education will ask for recommendations on how they can spread the message of the Million Dollar Scholars."

Aside from Van Gils, the 2017 Teacher Aide of the Year is Grace Belyea and the Instructor of the Year is Angelina Fitial.

Belyea has been working with PSS for over 10 years. She is currently a teacher aide at the Garapan Elemen-

tary School.

"I work with students of special education. I assist with their needs and their educational endeavors," she said.

Belyea said her experience played a vital role in her success as a teacher aide.

"I think my experience with different students is what really contributed to my win. I also don't complain about my job. I just do it," she said.

Yesterday, Belyea felt overwhelmed when her name was announced in front of all of the other teachers at Kobleville Elementary School.

"I didn't expect it. I submitted all my requirements, but I just didn't expect to win because I'm not from here," said Belyea.

VEHICULAR

From Page 1

than 10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes—one every 51 minutes, DPS said.

DPS disclosed these numbers at yesterday's proclamation signing for December as CNMI Drunk, Drugged, Drowsy and Distracted Driving Prevention Month.

Acting governor Victor Hocog signed the proclamation at the Governor's Office conference room.

In the proclamation, Hocog said that DPS, along with other government agencies and the private sector, will be out in full force this holiday season to keep roads safe.

Hocog said there will be zero tolerance for drunk driving, backstopped with a designated driver program.

DPS will be joining the national campaign, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving," and "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk."

DPS Commissioner Rob-

ert A. Guerrero said it's the start of the holiday season so they want the people to be safe when they go home.

"Don't drink and drive. You drink somewhere and if you've had enough, call the designated drivers, call the department because we have designated drivers in the month of December to help [you] get home," Guerrero said.

DPS Traffic Section commander Sgt. Anthony Macaranas said the police are trying to be creative in sending out the message about the

dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

"Do not attempt to drive home when you're impaired. Call a family member, call a cab or call somebody that you think will take you home safely," Macaranas said.

Macaranas said people should not get behind the wheel when intoxicated because when they get into a crash, they hurt themselves and other people, and when they get caught they will be jailed and charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol.

RECRUITER

From Page 1

Mendiola for four counts of violation of the False Claims Act, one count of unjust enrichment, and one count of payment by mistake.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI was asked to hold Mendiola liable to pay the U.S. government \$21,000 in damages, as well as penalties and court costs.

The Army National Guard ran the Army National Guard Recruiting Assistance Program, or G-RAP, from 2005 to 2012, where members of the Army National Guard or

affiliated civilians could apply to become a recruiting assistant—an independent contractor position. RAs generally earn up to \$2,000 for each recruit he or she enlists in the National Guard. Once the applicant completes an enlistment or reenlistment contract, the RA generally receives an initial amount of \$1,000. When the recruit reports to basic training, the RA generally receives another \$1,000.

According to the complaint, the Army Criminal Investigations Division notified the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Districts of Guam and the NMI on June

3, 2015, that Mendiola is being investigated on suspicion of defrauding G-RAP.

The division determined that on Jan. 28, 2009, Mendiola created an online profile with Document and Packaging Brokers Inc., or Docupak, to register as an RA.

Schwab said that over a two-year period, Mendiola nominated six potential soldiers, of which at least four of those she fraudulently nominated.

Schwab said interviews with potential soldiers revealed that some had never heard of Mendiola, communicated with her, or gave her their personally identifiable

information, or PII, needed for the G-RAP recruitments.

Schwab said that Mendiola, who allegedly obtained the PII in a way that she has yet to disclose, used the PII to fill out the online nomination to claim that she was eligible to obtain a recruitment fee.

Last October, the federal court handed down a sentence of two years and four months in prison against Jordan M. Jucutan, a former U.S. Army Reserve member who was convicted of engaging in a scheme to defraud and to obtain money by falsely claiming he referred soldiers to the Army Reserves.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Man allegedly chokes pregnant wife and bites her ear and nose

A 27-year-old man allegedly choked his 3-month pregnant wife and bit her ear and nose during an argument after she found him drinking alcoholic beverages again.

Nathan Mario A. Roppul was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$5,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Nov. 30 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for Roppul. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the gov-

ernment.

Police detective Koji M.N. Taisakan stated in his report that two police officers responded on Monday afternoon to a report of domestic violence at a residence in Susupe.

When the officers arrived, they saw the victim sitting on the floor with blood on her nose. She told the officers that her husband, Roppul, choked her and fled the scene. She told the officers that she had difficulty breathing. Medics treated the victim but she refused to be brought to the hospital.

Police later spotted Roppul near JL Market in Susupe on Monday at 9pm and arrested him. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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and have a
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November 24, 2015

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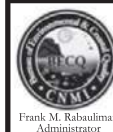
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HANMI THANKS SUGIE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Outgoing Pacific Islands Club general manager Hiroki Sugie, second from right, receives a plaque of appreciation from the board of directors of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands at PIC on Nov. 23, 2016. Sugie has served on the HANMI board for several years, including several terms as secretary. His new position is GM of Hotel Nikko Guam. Pictured from left are HANMI vice chair Nick Nishikawa, HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, Sugie, and HANMI treasurer Mike Johnson.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: November 23, 2016

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation regarding the application to U.S. EPA for reissuance of the NPDES permits for the continued operation of the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant (#MP0020028) and the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant (#MP0020010). In concern with the NPDES applications, CUC has requested issuance of a new Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) for each plant. In addition, CUC separately applied for renewal and modification of the existing Mixing Zone Approval.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. More information on the proposed project and the federal consistency determination request can be found at DCRM's website: <http://ow.ly/9gMU306rKZ>

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at crinderrington@becq.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on November 23, 2016 and ending on December 7, 2016 in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies and still allow DCRM to issue its concurrence or objection within the sixty (60) day response period. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



May the blessings of this Thanksgiving fill
your heart and home with happiness!

Happy Thanksgiving!

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JOB FAIR

IPI Imperial Pacific International, Ltd.'s non-gaming Human Resource team was one of 30 companies that participated in this past Saturday's Hospitality Expo and Job Fair, an event hosted by Island Training Solutions at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall. The team displayed all available non-gaming job vacancies and accepted applications at their booth. They assisted about 100 people that day. In this photo are, standing from left, talent acquisition assistant director Maggie Attao, hotel operations vice president Eddy Ram, hotel operations director Joshua Gray, laundry and linen director Henry Yap. Seated, from left, are learning and development supervisor Monique Sablan, HR & administrative specialist Vanessa Fitial, and Housekeeping executive director Robert Tong.

IPI

MAN ON THE STREET

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

By MICHAEL T. SANTOS
michael.santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

I'm thankful for my family and health, of course. It's just nice to have a day where people take time off their lives to be appreciative of the things we take for granted.

—Arlyne Guanco, San Jose



We're just thankful for the warm welcome the people of this island have given to us. We've actually only been here [Saipan] for about three months now and we feel very much welcome here.

—Debra Van Buren and Arnold Owens, Puerto Rico



—Nicole I. Sablan, Kagman

I'm thankful for my family, friends,

and the people who stuck by me throughout my life.

—Shella Ruiz, Chalan Kanoa



I'm thankful for the friends

I have in my life. I'm planning on spending time at a friend's house with them for a get-together with a bunch of other people and our choir members."

—Bhie Gonzaga, Garapan



I'm thankful for the little things in life that we tend to take for granted such as the clothes on our backs and the food in our stom-



achs. There's a certain population that don't live the way we do in excess. Also, the men out there in uniform fighting for our freedom, these are what I'm thankful for."

—Steven Losonko, visitor

I'm thankful for many things. The gift of life, wonderful friends, and also the opportunities given to me that helped me grow as a person throughout



the years.

—Genelin Camacho, Dandan

This year, I'm really thankful for my career, family, friends, and opportunities to grow as a person and within my profession.

I'm just thankful to finally spend some time with my family. Because I'm from



the Philippines, this is my first time celebrating Thanksgiving. I'm really excited for it."

—Akisha Yuki Manunag, Chalan Kanoa



BLACK FRIDAY!

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MAP



Garapan Basketball Court



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Phone 233-9469

NOVEMBER 25TH
BETWEEN 10AM & 12PM ONLY



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 • Fax (670) 664-2571



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Division of Historic Preservation, under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, hereby give notice that the Special Historic Preservation Review Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., over at the Office on Aging Center's Conference Room, located across the Garapan Central Park.

Interested individuals are invited to attend.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Adoption of Agenda
 3. Adoption of Minutes from November 3, 2016 Board Meeting
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Saipan Adventure Tours LLC Zip Line Project, Marpi Area, Saipan
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
- V. OTHER MATTERS
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Pedro A. Duenas
Chairman, CNMI HPO Review Board



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Better Together

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Climate collision: Paris accord will be first flashpoint

Climate change is likely to be the first issue where U.S. domestic and foreign policy, under the new administration of President-elect Donald Trump, will collide with the international community.

The policies of President Barack Obama had America among the countries leading the way on this issue, culminating in the U.N Framework Convention on Climate Change accord struck in Paris last year. Obama's administration's actions with respect to environmental issues were a mixed bag, but basically consistent with U.S. intentions to proceed with efforts to curb America's carbon emissions to meet future targets.

The positions that Trump took during the campaign, presumably to be implemented once he takes office in January, appear to go in the opposite direction. Not only did he say he would withdraw America from the pact, he also made promises to the electorate, including to bring coal and steel back, that would put America in a position of non-observance of its previous commitments, and also have it doing serious damage to the global campaign against climate change in general.

The just completed conference on implementation of the Paris agreement in Marrakesh, Morocco, put the world's dilemma on the subject under the spotlight. The whole world is, of course, aware of America's previous commitments. It is also, of course, fully aware of Trump's stated positions relevant to the subject. The representatives of the current U.S. administration at the conference were in the position of being unable to commit the country they represented to anything.

One interesting aspect is that China, the world's No. 1 polluter—America is second—showed itself at Marrakesh to stand ready to pick up the banner of world leadership on this important issue if the United States, under Trump, wants to walk off the field of play.

Another complicating factor is that state officials in California and other West Coast states have indicated that they intend to proceed with participating in the world effort to take steps to stop or roll back global warming, no matter what position a Trump administration in Washington may take. To drop out of the Paris accord would take four years, but Trump's government could simply stop carrying out any actions to implement for the four or eight years it is in power.

Part of the confusion over the American position comes from elements in the United States who believe that climate change is inevitable, or cyclical, as opposed to man-made and subject to actions based on that hypothesis. It is also the case that the world—in the strictest sense of the term—is probably capable of withstanding a U.S. policy of dog-paddling on climate change for four or eight years, given the time frame of the phenomenon.

Whatever U.S. policy under Trump turns out to be, it will be a bone of contention for the United States and a Europe led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and an Asia led by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

(c)2016 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



An experiment in customer service

By **BARRY GOLDMAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Two things happened at my house not long ago: My wife turned 65, and one of our credit cards expired. Not very interesting in themselves, perhaps, but the two events occurring together set up what scientists call a natural experiment.

Turning 65 made Susan eligible for Medicare. That meant, at last, we could stop paying her Blue Cross premium. Because we pay our bills by autopay, I had to tell Blue Cross to deduct her portion of our premium from the monthly charge. And because the expiring credit card is the one we use to autopay our other "service providers," I had to tell the homeowners and auto insurance companies, the cable company and the utilities to update the card.

Everyone knows that communicating with these institutions is crazy-making. That fact doesn't need further empirical support. But this was a chance to do some social science. I just had to clock the time it took to accomplish the two changes and compare the results.

Here's the punchline: Update credit card information—34 seconds. Take Susan's Blue Cross premium off autopay—six weeks.

Updating the credit card information couldn't have been simpler. Each company has a website, and each website has a prominent, clear menu item called "Update Method of Payment." I clicked the box, entered the card number and new expiration date, and hit "Submit." A confirming email arrived in seconds. Seconds.

Getting Susan off our Blue Cross autopay was a different matter. From what I gather, she is the first person to turn 65 in the history of Blue Cross, and the system just has no mechanism to deal with it.

I started by calling the customer service number on my insurance card. Everyone knows the drill. They were experiencing unusually high call volume, but they thoughtfully provided "music" for me to listen to while I waited. They put me through to their automated system where I entered my account number and my birth date and my passcode. A robot read me my balance and my payment due date and

talked to me about things that had nothing to do with the purpose of my call.

We went round and round until I was finally able to get a human being on the phone, and then he and I started back at the beginning. He needed to get my name and account number and birth date and passcode. And he needed to put me on hold while he checked for the answer to my question. I listened to the same six bars of "music."

When he came back, he said the form I needed was on their website. He told me the name of the form and where it would be. He made it sound simple.

I went to the website and found layer after layer of security questions and boxes to fill out, but no trace of the form. After going round and round on the website for an hour, I got to a message that said: "If you still have questions, call the customer service number on your insurance card."

By the time I went through the whole process again and got to a human being, I was not feeling friendly. I confess I was rude to the person on the phone. Susan tells me not to be rude to such people. She reminds me they are just trying to make a living, and they are not responsible for the malevolence of the system they work for. She is right, of course, but the people who are responsible for the malevolence of the system are not the ones they put on the phone.

This time, despite my rudeness, the person on the phone was charming and friendly; I was disarmed. She told me she understood my frustration and she promised she would personally put the form I needed in the mail. Three days later a hand-addressed envelope arrived and in it was ... the form to select a new pediatric dentist.

I called the broker who sold us our Medicare plan. He was able to communicate with Blue Cross through some secret back channel, and, in a few days, he emailed me the form I needed. I signed it and sent it to Blue Cross. But all is not well.

Blue Cross keeps sending me contradictory messages. They send me emails that say I have payments due, and my coverage will terminate if I don't pay them. They direct me to their website. The website agrees I have payments due, but says the amount is \$0.00.

I don't have the stomach to call customer service and try to

See SERVICE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What took me so long?

As one gets older, health problems appear. This is no fun. I remember my aged mom saying, "It's hell to get old." She was right.

Although I have written about vitamins and minerals and other healthy things for a few years now, I have never written about—nor seriously considered—a Whole Food diet. That is, vegetarian. Although I gave up going to McDonald's more than a year ago, I still ate pepperoni pizza, rotisserie chicken, and fresh, tasty, beef steaks and burgers.

However, after consulting with two favorite doctors, Daniel Lamar, N.D., M.D., and Paul Gahlinger, M.D., Ph.D., I have realized that I was eating exactly the wrong foods.

Here's a simple truism: when you get older, you can't eat the junk you loved when you were younger. Your body can't handle it any more, and survival becomes paramount. If you want to live a long, healthy life, there are a few things you must do.

First of all, whatever you used to eat, eat half.

Second, avoid red meat—that is, beef and pork—except in infrequent, tiny amounts.

Make your diet primarily fresh vegetables (never canned) and complement with brown rice. It may sound bland, but Tabasco sauce can jazz it up. Tabasco sauce is good for you (or Sriracha, or other hot pepper sauce).

Spaghetti is generally OK, but not with meatballs or sausage. The things to add are mushrooms, onions and peppers. Macaroni and cheese is to be avoided—primarily because the

cheese is processed and is basically junk.

Avoid all dairy products. This means milk, yogurt, and any kind of cheese. However, sour cream is OK because the body treats it as fat, not dairy. The same is true for butter, which is also OK. Avoid most cooking oils, except for organic virgin olive oil or peanut oil. Coconut oil may be OK, but I have read conflicting reports about it.

I don't think I have to list all of the wonderful fresh vegetables we have in the Commonwealth—but there's a good variety in all of our grocery stores.

The healthiest way to prepare vegetables is by steaming them. Stir-fry (in peanut oil) can be a really tasty, especially if you throw in some shrimp, onions and hot peppers. If you ever make this dish, please call me and I'll be right over.

Most fish and seafood are OK, provided they are fresh. Eggs are also very good for you, but be careful with chicken. If you want chicken, then make a nutritious soup, with bok choy, some noodles, ginger, garlic and onions. You're still getting chicken, but you're also getting great nutrition with the vegetables and spices.

Why change my diet?

Most diseases are caused by the foods we eat and the beverages we drink. And the sad fact is that most of the foods we love are bad for us. By diseases I mean cancer, heart disease and diabetes. We love fast food, processed foods, and just about anything that will eventually kill us.

If individuals could change their eating habits, most life-

By RUSS MASON, M.S.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Russ Mason, M.S., wrote for a medical journal, "Alternative & Complementary Therapies," for eight years. He interviewed dozens of doctors who had much to share about unconventional treatment options. These included Tibetan medicine, Chinese medicine, botanicals, and treating stroke victims with hyperbaric oxygen.

threatening diseases would diminish markedly. And yet making the leap to a vegetable-based diet is a huge challenge.

For a beverage, drink water, or water with a squeeze of fresh lemon or lime juice. Forget about colas, wine, beer, or the "hard" stuff. In the end, they will bring you to your knees. Water is good, and it's safe.

I am just hitting the highlights, but I ask you to please consider changing your diet. You don't have to do it overnight, or in a few days, but the last thing you want is to develop some nasty, preventable illness.

And, believe it or not, eating a dish of brown rice with vegetables—especially with garlic, ginger and hot sauce—not only tastes great, it is really good for you.

So, are you up for this health challenge? It's not easy, but I bet you can do it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am diabetic

Since this is November and also Diabetes Awareness Month, I have decided to talk about my diabetes and how I have dealt with it since I was diagnosed in 2004.

When the doctor told me that I had an elevated sugar level and that I would need to go on medication to control it, I was shocked. I thought I was healthy. Days after the doctor's visit, I had not taken any medication and was still in disbelief. This wore off eventually, but only after denial, learning about diabetes, wallowing in my sorrow, and then acceptance. This process took me several months to a year. Even after this, it was still very difficult to talk about it with anyone, including my wife, who is my partner in life.

Through my work at NMPASI, I learned that people with diabetes can live productive and meaningful lives once we control our sugar levels. Without realizing it, I was slowly changing my lifestyle to help curb my sugar levels almost unconsciously. I began trying to fit my meals into a bowl instead of the usual plates I used before. I stopped eating late at night just before bed. I had to reduce my intake of rice from two or more scoops to just one a meal. I also have started including brown rice in my meals, but it took me several years as brown rice tastes like cardboard. I also began to develop the habit of walking on weekends, as much as

possible, near the Last Command Post in Marpi with my wife. I even joined a gym and fell in love with the spa. When I enter the spa in the mornings, my day begins. I get a cup of coffee with just milk added and then wade into the hot tub with my cup. I then move to the wet steam room, before going into the warm tub. I then finish off with a jump in the cold tub. The spa works wonders for me with the circulation it brings to my legs and feet. I also try to eat something healthy the size of my fist every two to three hours. I eat about five times a day to help my metabolism continue to burn calories all day long.

Before Western contact, the people of our islands were very healthy in the way they fished and worked the land to produce what they ate. We islanders also have a gene in us that helps us survive long periods of time without food. This is because of storms wiping out food supplies on the islands, and fish leaving the area. What this gene would do in our bodies is tell it to conserve energy and begin storing energy in the form of fat to prepare for these inevitable times of famine.

Unfortunately, this gene still exists within us islanders and is actually a catalyst for diabetes. In other words, it helps us become more susceptible to diabetes, because it still does the same job of storing energy. However, we no longer have long periods of time without food as our food supplies now are abundant and full of fat and cholesterol. I am not blaming our gene or our new food supplies for my diabetes, but knowledge is power.

Knowing these things enables me to make better choices every day. Each one of us is responsible to be productive members of society, but, before that can happen we must take care of our-

selves first.

Today I am still battling diabetes but I am more aware of the way it affects my body. I don't eat as much, but I do not limit my diet to any particular food so that I continue to enjoy all the foods I love. An example would be getting a mini ice cream cone instead of a full size one. I have read up on diabetes and continue to learn about the new methods of dealing with diabetes like using leaves from specific types of trees called *banaba* in Tagalog to make tea. I have also read that stem cells may actually be able to be taken from me to reproduce a new pancreas with my own cells eventually. This is still some years down the road, so I live with the motto to take it one day at a time, and to remember how wonderful it is to be alive.

I am determined to go on living, loving, contributing, sharing, learning and serving others in this life.

Thank you for your time with this, and I hope that, if you or a loved one are dealing with diabetes, that you do not lose hope. Learn about diabetes and celebrate this month by participating in the activities that bring awareness to diabetes. Also take the time to look at your intake and frequency of meals to ensure that intake is reduced and frequency of meals is increased. Finally, take it one day at a time and live a wonderful life!

I have much to be thankful for this season. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Thomas M. Thornburgh

*Diabetic since 2004
Garapan, Saipan*

Thank you

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank all who supported me as I prepared for and underwent a liver transplant here at St. Luke's Medical Center, Global City.

First of all to all of my friends and family on Tinian and throughout the Commonwealth, thank you so much for your strong prayers. Your prayers made a difference.

I would also like to thank the Tinian and CNMI leaderships for your support.

To the CNMI Medical Referral Office, and Mr. Henry Cruz in Manila, thank you for your excellent service and for all your assistance in making my and my family's stay in Manila a comfortable one.

To our prayer warriors on Facebook, thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. I read your messages and ap-

preciate them so much.

To all my doctors and nurses here at St. Luke's, including my surgical team: Dr. Allen Concejero, Dr. Wilfredo Polido, Dr. Eric Arcilla, Dr. Monette Jordan, and Dr. Glen Genuino, *maraming salamat po*.

I am lucky to have a son in John who graciously donated half of his liver to me. Please keep our hero, John, in your prayers. I love you, my son.

And to everyone who in one way or another contributed to the success of my operation, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Patrick H. San Nicolas
San Jose Village, Tinian

SERVICE

From Page 10






straighten this out. My plan is just not to get sick for the next few months until I, too, turn 65 and go on Medicare.

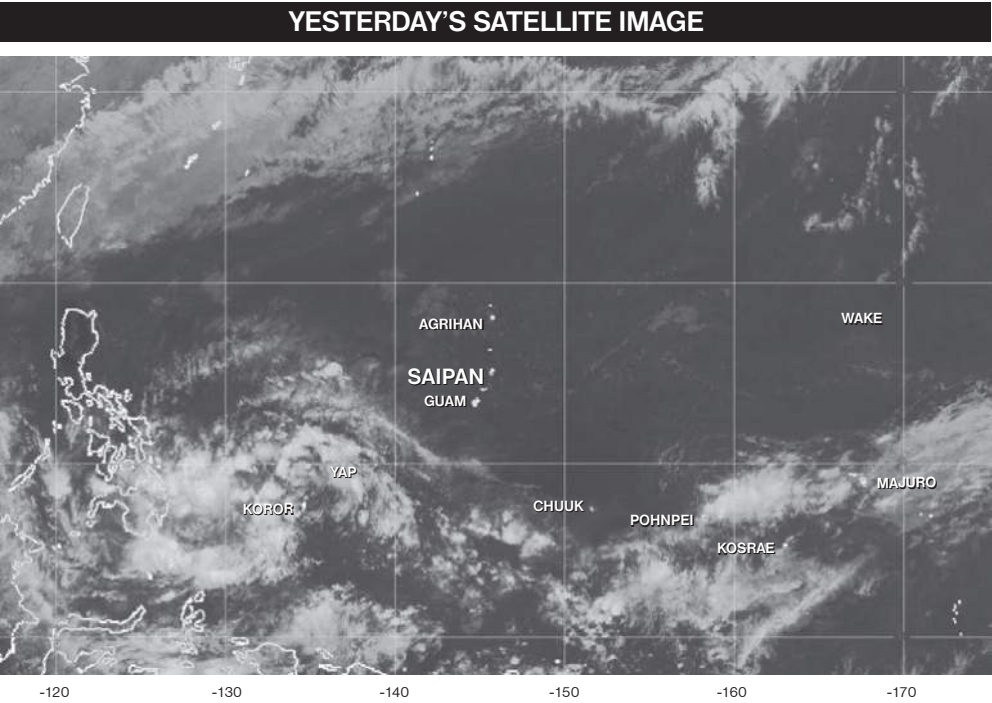
We're told that voicemail systems are efficient and cost-saving, and that multiple layers of security questions and passwords are there for our protection. What my little experiment shows is that this is horse hockey.

When you want to give them money, the process is remarkably quick and easy. When you want to stop giving them money, the process becomes infinitely complicated.

Barry Goldman is an arbitrator and mediator and the author of The Science of Settlement. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°



PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows almost no showers within the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile reveals east-northeast winds of 7 to 11 knots just off the surface which increase to between 13 and 23 knots through the lowest 7 thousand feet of the air.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲		
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	81 / 88 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F
Yap	Morning clouds	79 / 89 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	78 / 84 °F
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	76 / 82 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	83 / 87 °F
Majuro	Partly sunny	79 / 85 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲		
Auckland	Afternoon clouds	56 / 65 °F
Beijing	High level clouds	14 / 36 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	56 / 66 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	72 / 78 °F
London	Mostly cloudy	46 / 51 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	49 / 74 °F
Manila	Morning clouds	78 / 89 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	49 / 62 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	71 / 79 °F
New York	Cloudy	38 / 48 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	46 / 56 °F
Paris	Partly sunny	49 / 56 °F
Pusan	Sunny	33 / 45 °F
Rome	Afternoon clouds	56 / 64 °F
Salem	Cloudy	45 / 50 °F
San Francisco	Mostly sunny	47 / 58 °F
Seoul	Sunny	24 / 37 °F
Tokyo	Mostly cloudy	35 / 42 °F
Washington, DC	Cloudy	38 / 52 °F

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
4:03 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.37 Feet
9:51 AM	LOW TIDE	0.62 Feet
4:20 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.87 Feet
11:14 PM	LOW TIDE	0.44 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	1:59 AM	2:22 PM
Friday	2:46 AM	3:00 PM
Saturday	3:33 AM	3:39 PM
Sunday	4:20 AM	4:18 PM
Monday	5:08 AM	4:59 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily		
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota		
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily		
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily			DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily		
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily		
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM		
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7		
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4			UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM		
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR			UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM								
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM								
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR								
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7		
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM								

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

**FIELD TRIP**

Oleai Elementary School's 4th graders visit the American Memorial Park. On Nov. 22, the park welcomed the 4th graders, teachers, and chaperones of Oleai Elementary School. This field trip was part of the 2016-17 Every Kid in a Park Program to encourage fourth graders around the country to visit their national parks. During their trip the students learned about the Battle of Saipan, had a park ranger-guided tour of the Visitor Center, the Court of Honor and the Marianas Memorial. This also marks the first group of Saipan students to become Centennial Jr. Rangers. American Memorial Park was selected to receive a 2016 field trip grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, to support the Every Kid in a Park program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

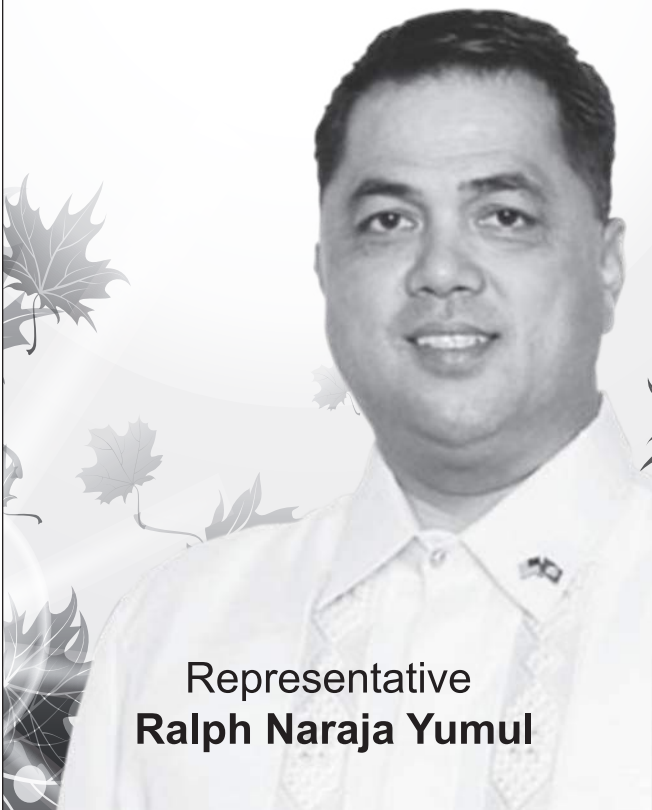
To the People of Precinct 3:

On behalf of my wife Ronaleen Joy, My parents Jesus and Francisca Yumul, my family and the Committee, I would like to thank all of you who have supported me for the past four years. I am deeply humbled and honored to have worked for you as your Representative. I am forever grateful to each and everyone of you.

**Thank You and
Have a**

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase,
Olomwaay, Salamat Po



**Representative
Ralph Naraja Yumul**

BLACK FRIDAY Sale

NOVEMBER 25-26, 2016

SOFAS, LOVE SEATS & RECLINERS

35% off

DINING SETS, COCKTAILS & END TABLES

35% off

Portable Insulated Bake Ware Set & 16pc. Glass Container Set

\$29.99 \$39.89

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Washer 3.5 cu.ft. **\$599.99** (sku: 1WTW4715EW)

Dryer 7 cu.ft. **\$479.99** (sku: 1WED4915EW)

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SELECTED GAS GRILLS

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\$6.99

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\$44.99

sku: 6135313 sku: 6237853

Portable Gas Stove

\$9.49

sku: 820003

Triple Buffet Server

\$27.99

sku: 6279699

DeWalt Compact Drill & Skillsaw

\$189.99 \$174.99

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Nursery Pots

\$6.29 \$5.29

sku: 700279 sku: 700283

MTD Push Mowers

\$369.99 \$272.99

sku: 700885 sku: 700884

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MVA joins Taipei International Travel Fair

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined one of the biggest annual travel industry events in the Asia-Pacific region, the 2016 Taipei International Travel Fair, on Nov. 4-7, 2016.

This year the fair received 361,071 visitors, a 3.67-percent increase over last year's fair. The event attracted 950 exhibitors, including the MVA, with 1,450 booths from 60 countries.

At the pre-fair press conference on Nov. 3, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres awarded two grand prizes of airline tickets to Saipan to winning journalists in support

of the fair emphasis on "Travel as Couples" theme.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority launched our Taiwan office in October 2013. Overall there is 112-percent growth from 2013 to 2016. It shows that Taiwan is a growing market and there is demand in Taiwan for travel to the CNMI," Torres told media and travel trade reps. "Our Taiwanese visitors stay for an average of four nights, five days, and we've received nearly 100 percent positive feedback about their stay in the NMI from the past three years of

MVA
Marianas Visitors Authority Deputy Managing Director Judy Torres, sixth from right, joins the pre-fair press conference of Taipei International Travel Fair on Nov. 3, 2016.

exit survey research."

On Taipei ITF opening day, the MVA launched the latest online campaign "2017 Intern to the Marianas," also called "The Best Internship in the World" and considered the most popular campaign among tourism boards in Taiwan. This annual campaign aims to position the Northern



Marianas as a popular destination targeting island lovers and to increase awareness by targeting social media networkers, adventure lovers, and vacationers.

On Nov. 5, the MVA's Taiwan office celebrated its three-year anniversary in Taiwan by inviting 47 VIP travel trade and media guests to a special review

the achievements and special occasions of the office since its opening. A photo book signing ceremony with celebrity Phoebe Yuan on Nov. 6 attracted a large crowd also attracted a crowd at the MVA's booth.

The Northern Marianas received 31 mentions in media clips as a result of its participation in the fair. (MVA)

Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours.

"Give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good; His love endures forever."

-1 Chronicles 16:34



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MVA
Representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority delegation promote Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at Taipei International Travel Fair on Nov. 4-7, 2016.



MVA
Celebrity Phoebe Yuan signs her photobook photographed in the Northern Mariana Islands at the Marianas Visitors Authority booth at the Taipei International Travel Fair on Nov. 6, 2016. The fair attracted over 360,000 visitors.



MVA
Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, right, and MVA's Taiwan country manager Milane Tasi were featured on the cover of Travel Rich as part of media coverage of the Northern Mariana Islands at the Taipei International Travel Fair on November 2016. The fair attracted over 360,000 visitors.

BLACK WEEKEND TRUCKLOAD SALE

STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 7PM
OPEN SUNDAY 11AM to 5PM DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON



\$359⁹⁵

VIZIO 39" 1080P LED TV REFURBISHED



SEIKI 32" LED TV

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SMART WATCH ASSORTED COLORS

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\$849⁹⁵



SUNBEAM .7 DIGITAL MICROWAVE

\$69⁹⁵

SUOMO STEREO HEADSET ASSORTED COLORS

\$4⁹⁵



BETTER CHEF 12-CUP COFFEEMAKER

\$18⁹⁵



CERAMIC TABLE LAMP

\$12⁹⁵

FROZEN DOLL ASSORTED 1PC

\$8⁹⁵



ASSORTED MODEL AND RADIO CONTROL CARS

\$25⁹⁵

BETTER CHEF CAKE STAND AND DOME

\$10⁹⁵



\$39⁹⁵

HONG MA 6FT TABLE



\$15⁹⁵

HONG MA FOLDING CHAIR

DAHDOUL 27X54 BATH TOWEL

\$4⁹⁵



POWER STRIP 2' CORD SURGE PROTECTOR

\$55⁹⁵

\$3⁹⁵



DAHDOUL PRESTIGE 7PC COMFORTER SET QUEEN

\$59⁹⁵



\$4⁹⁵

THROW PILLOW 45CM X 45CM

BICYCLE 16" 611-1



CHILDREN'S POP UP PLAYHOUSE

\$14⁹⁵



CHRISTMAS LED HANGING TWINKLE LIGHTS 20FT

\$2⁹⁵



CHRISTMAS DOORMAT, 43CMX73CM

\$3⁹⁵



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\$169⁹⁵



OSTER 14SPD GLASS JAR BLENDER
\$29⁹⁵



PROCTOR SILEX 1L TEA KETTLE
\$15⁹⁵



PROCTOR SILEX 10 SPEED BLENDER
\$25⁹⁵



STAINLESS STEEL SIX SIDES GRATER
\$14⁹⁵



GIBSON DURALIVING 12PC DINNERWARE SET
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RCA 5CD AUDIO SYSTEM REFURBISHED
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BLUETOOTH EARBUDS MUSIC & TALKING
\$12⁹⁵



SPORT CAM FULL HD 1080P WIFI X4000
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SOLAR LANTERN BIVOUAC LIGHT
\$10⁹⁵



TGF WALL CLOCK
\$4⁹⁵



RECHARGEABLE EMERGENCY LIGHT
\$2⁹⁵



CAMERA HD 720P
\$59⁹⁵



LG DVD PLAYER
\$49⁹⁵



CA AUDIO POWERED SPEAKER SYSTEM
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GIBSON REGAL SHADE 12PC DINNERWARE SET
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COOKINEX 1000ML VACUUM FLASK
\$7⁹⁵



BETTER CHEF OMELET MAKER
\$19⁹⁵



BEST BUY- HERCULES 3 BURNER GAS STOVE
\$59⁹⁵



ALPHA MARBLE WOK
\$24⁹⁵



EH HAYDEN 5PC HIGH TOP DINING SET
\$279⁹⁵



CHAIR - PATIO LOUNGE CHAIR W/ARM RESTS
\$14⁹⁵



HONG MA SQUARE TABLE
\$29⁹⁵



HONG MA BEER TABLE SET
\$69⁹⁵



TGF OVERFILLED PILLOW
\$5⁹⁵



WEIDER 265 80LB VINYL WEIGHT BENCH SET
\$129⁹⁵



MEN'S 26" BICYCLE NTB265/NTB470
\$169⁹⁵



BOY'S 24" BICYCLE NTB2616/VA240
\$139⁹⁵



SLEEPING BAG
\$10⁹⁵



CRAFTSMAN 2.5 GAL WET/DRY VACUUM
\$35⁹⁵



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EVEREST OVERSIZE DELUXE BACKPACK
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\$14⁹⁵



CAR MATS 4PC SET RUBBER
\$7⁹⁵



YOGA MAT 1.73X61CM
\$6⁹⁵



TABLE MAT 44X28CM
\$2⁹⁵



EXTENSION CORD 10M
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4 SEASONS STERILITE 12QT PLASTIC PAIL
\$4⁹⁵



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\$1⁹⁵



CHRISTMAS TREE 1M
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COLOR SWITCH PLUS 4.5FT CHRISTMAS TREE
\$69⁹⁵



CHRISTMAS TREE 2.1M
\$19⁹⁵



CHRISTMAS LED LIGHTED STAR TREE TOPPER
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CHRISTMAS BOW
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95¢



TRIM A HOME 50" TREE SKIRT
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CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP 40SQ.FT.
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DAHDOUL 3PC EMBROIDERY BEDSPREAD QUEEN
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COLEMAN 48QT COOLER
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For more info, please call: 322-0430



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STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 7PM



PLUSH DOLL LG ASSORTED

\$29⁹⁵



FROZEN THEME SKATEBOARD SM, 6"X1.9'

\$5⁹⁵



SKATEBOARD LG, 7.8"X2.5'

\$6⁹⁵



ASSORTED BODY BOARDS

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R/C QUADCOPTER, K300C WITH WIFI CAPABILITY

\$89⁹⁵



R/C HELICOPTER, LS MODEL

\$19⁹⁵



R/C BULLDOZER

\$35⁹⁵



\$34⁹⁵

MITRE RED 2-IN-1 POP-UP SOCCER & GOAL SET



EVA MAT, ALPHABET

\$9⁹⁵



WINDMILL BUILDING BLOCK SET

\$7⁹⁵



JUST KIDZ CUTE CUBE TRIANGLE

\$9⁹⁵



WILSON NCAA JR CARBON BLACK FOOTBALL

\$6⁹⁵



\$7⁹⁵

BASKETBALL



CHILDREN'S TRAMPOLINE

\$99⁹⁵



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\$19⁹⁵



TENT - EASY POP UP TENT

\$59⁹⁵



JUST KIDZ ELECTRONIC DRUM SET

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For more info, please call:
322-0430



MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Scheduled water outage in south San Vicente**

Residents of south San Vicente on Dandan Road will be experiencing a temporary water service interruption on Monday, Nov. 28, from 9am to 5pm due to the replacement of a non-working gate valve on Adios Place. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected area should expect restoration of services soon after.

This construction project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, and CUC. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). *(CUC)*

Sobriety checkpoints on Saturday

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Saturday, Nov. 26.

The first checkpoint will be from 6pm to 8pm along Beach Road Garapan to Beach Road Susupe. The second checkpoint will be from 10pm to 11pm along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Puerto Rico to Chalan Lau Lau.

Each checkpoint will be operated for two hours. The checkpoint will be cancelled when it rains. *(DPS)*

Bank of Guam closed today and tomorrow

Bank of Guam will be closed today, Nov. 24, and tomorrow, Nov. 25. The bank's Saturday branches in Yigo, Dededo, Harmon, Upper Tumon, Tamuning, Hagatna, Mangilao, and Malessa will reopen from 9am to 1pm. For more information, contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258. *(PR)*

Transfer station, landfill closed today

In observance of Thanksgiving, both the Lower Base transfer station and the Marpi landfill will be closed all day today, Nov. 24, 2016. *(PR)*

Free medical mission on Sunday

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) will host a free medical mission at its chapel in San Jose on Nov. 27, 2016, Sunday, from 4pm to 6pm. There will be blood pressure check, blood sugar check, weight measure, and eye screening. There will also be free body massage, facial cleansing, haircut, snack/ refreshments, and giveaways. For more information, contact 789-7566. *(PR)*

Military training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct 24-hour training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Nov. 24-28. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots

and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the date and times indicated. *(PR)*

CUC office hours

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will have the following office hours on Nov. 24-25, 2016:

■ Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 (Thanksgiving Day): Closed

■ Friday, Nov. 25, 2016: Closed

Regular business hours will resume on Monday, Nov. 28, 2016. For emergencies, contact the CUC Call Center at 664-4282 (4CUC). *(CUC)*

Chamber to host career exploration day

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its "2016 Career Exploration Day" on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016. High school juniors and seniors will choose a field of business they are interested in and will be paired with a participating chamber business. Students will be recognized at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall during the chamber's membership meeting on Dec. 7 at 12pm. For more information, call the chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. *(SCC)*

SHEFA deadlines

The SHEFA deadline for new application only is on Dec. 1, 2016. The deadline for all supporting documents is on Feb. 28, 2017. All documents must be complete and submitted at once. *(SHEFA)*

Wage and salary statement workshop

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form

(W-2CM) for tax year 2016 and other 2016 yearend filing requirements. The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm

at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Businesses, employers and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Please confirm your attendance by calling the Division of Revenue and Taxation

at 664-1000 and 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. *(PR)*

Holiday closures at Visitor Center

The American Memorial Park
See **COMMUNITY** on Page 20



Happy Thanksgiving

May your heart be filled with gladness
and your home be filled with joy!

From the management and staff of

 **Tan Holdings**
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 **Tan Siu Lin Foundation**



November 24

Life is a journey filled with reasons
to be grateful for.
Happy Thanksgiving!

 **PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN**

Casino commission lauds IPI's local employment efforts

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission officials lauded the efforts made by Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. in

hiring and training the local workforce and qualified U.S. citizens. Last Thursday, 15 individuals completed the Baccarat Dealer Training given by IPI and they are now certified to work on the casino floor.

CCC chair Juan M. Sablan said the move just shows how IPI is committed to complying with all of the requirements they had agreed on and those that the federal government also wants to implement.

"We are happy to see people being trained. And that's what we've been trying to impose to them, hire from the local workforce and train them. It is very hard to find dealers, especially on the island so you need to be

trained if you get employed for the new casino [or] you recruit from the Philippines, Australia or other casinos in other countries," said Sablan.

He said training is one of the things in the employment plan submitted by IPI to the commission. "They are complying with our demands. There is ongoing training all the time. IPI has already submitted an employment plan to the commission. They already sent us a copy."

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero added this is also proof of IPI's move to reach out to the community and help the local workforce. "Basically they are trying their very best to recruit U.S. qualified workers and go through the process of training them."

"That's why we wanted to commend them. The 15 who finished the course are now ready and prepared to work on the casino floor. We need to

reinforce the local workforce and we need to have more training for them."

"Sometimes in this world, it is better to find what works... to encourage people rather than looking at what they've done wrong and pursue sanctions. We want to thank them for doing the right thing," added Deleon Guerrero.

The number of employees that IPI is going to hire and the kind of training to be provided are also included in the employment plan. IPI needs 3,000 workers once the multi-billion-dollar Imperial Pacific Resort opens in the second quarter of 2017.

IPI would need waiters, cooks, and other hotel staff aside from dealers and casino personnel. IPI is targeting the casino to open in late January or early February next year while the hotel is expected as early as May in 2017.

COMMUNITY

From Page 19

Visitor Center will be closed in observance of the upcoming federal holidays:

- Nov. 24, 2016, Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25, 2016, Christmas Day
- Jan. 1, 2017, New Year's Day

Park staff would also like to encourage the public to visit the Visitor Center. With the exception of the holidays closed, the VC is open every day from 9am to 5pm.

If you have any questions, contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

Brabu *We are thankful for our*
Pharmacy and Wellness Center



What are you thankful for?

From the management and staff of



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A special thanks to express our sincerest appreciation for your business, your confidence and loyalty!

Happy
THANKSGIVING



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May the good things of life

BE YOURS IN

ABUNDANCE

NOT ONLY IN

THANKSGIVING

... BUT ...

THROUGHOUT

the coming year.

Hafa Adai!

from the staff and management of

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



There is no time more fitting to express our sincere appreciation for your valuable contribution in making this past election a great success.

We take this opportunity to Thank You and send the warmest wishes to you and your family and an abundance of success in the year ahead.

CONGRESSMAN
JOSEPH LEE PAN TENORIO GUERRERO

Wishes you and yours a

Happy Thanksgiving!



Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Joseph Lee Pan Tenorio Guerrero



Governor Ralph DLG. Torres



Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog

"We are grateful..."

So many times we strive for things we wish we had that we often forget to be thankful for the things we already have. As we celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday, we are reminded that for everything we wish for, there are so many positive things in our lives that outnumber the wants and wishes, such as family, friends, love, good health, and the precious gift of life.

Our islands have many grateful things to be thankful for such as an economy that continues to improve, visitors coming back to be awed and inspired by the natural beauty of our island home, and the assurance that those who serve you will give their all to put your needs at the forefront of what they do.

True, the image of this holiday is one of happiness and celebration, but we must also think of those who are not as fortunate as some of us are. This day is more than just a day of food and parties; it is a day to remind us of how important graciousness is, and how each of us can always find something and someone to be thankful for. We are grateful.

From our families to yours, may all of you have a

Happy Thanksgiving!

RALPH DLG. TORRES

VICTOR B. HOCOG

This Thanksgiving we pause to reflect on the many blessings bestowed upon us throughout the year.

Thank you for enabling us to do what we love everyday.

Happy Thanksgiving!

From the management and staff



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Longitude 145° 45' E

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Longitude 145° 38' E

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FAX: 670-322-8568
EMAIL: saisteve@pticom.com

ROTA

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Longitude 145° 15' E

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TEL: 670-532-3117
FAX: 670-532-9888
EMAIL: islashipping@yahoo.com

GUAM

Latitude 13° 30' N
Longitude 144° 40' E

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Business

Asia laments Trump rejection of Pacific trade pact

TOKYO (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump says he wants to pull out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership but other Pacific Rim leaders are vowing to push market-opening efforts they say are vital for growth.

The possible decline of the 12-nation TPP could give a boost to alternative initiatives including one promoted by China in which the United States is not taking part.

Trump's message, in a brief video, was issued after President Barack Obama and other leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group, meeting in Peru, called Sunday for fighting the backlash against trade highlighted by Trump's victory and Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

Promoters of the TPP say it is a step toward building a wider, pan-Pacific free trade zone, though critics object it would shift too much control over regulation to companies from governments and the public.

"There is very strong support among the other 11 parties to the TPP to ratify it and

to seek to bring it into force," said Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Trump described the 12-nation pact as a "potential disaster for our country." He has also said he wants to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico.

Obama has said he would give up seeking congressional approval for the TPP. He had championed it as a way for the United States to lead the creation of "gold standard" rules for 21st century trade.

"I think not moving forward would undermine our position across the region," Obama told reporters in Lima.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said Washington will need to think about what role it wants to play in Asia and its fast-growing markets.

"The United States isn't an island. It can't just sit there and say it's not going to trade with the rest of the world," said Key after returning home. "At some point they're going to have to give some consideration to that. But naturally, we're a bit disappointed."

In this time of gratitude,
we give special thanks to **YOU**.
We value your patronage and appreciate
your loyalty and confidence in us.

May you and your family celebrate and enjoy a Safe and Blessed

Thanksgiving!!!

Many thanks from our FISG Family!!!

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needs,

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We will be closed on Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.



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Thanking You

for the fruitful year.

This Thanksgiving, we're filled with gratitude for many things. At the top of that list are the many wonderful customers whom we've had the opportunity to serve and learn from.

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Nation

Trump said backing off campaign vows

NEW YORK (AP)—Two weeks after his election victory, President-elect Donald Trump began backing off campaign promises Tuesday, including his hard line on climate change and his vow to jail “Crooked Hillary” Clinton that had brought thunderous “Lock her up” chants at his rallies.

A top adviser said Trump is now focused on matters that are essential in setting up his administration, not on comments he made during the heat of the campaign.

After a year blasting The New York Times, Trump submitted to an interview with reporters and editors at their Manhattan office. Among the topics covered, he:

- Pushed back against questions about conflicts that could arise due to a lack of separation between his government post and his many businesses, declaring that “the law’s totally on my side, the president can’t have a conflict of interest.”

- Took his strongest stance yet against the “alt-right,” a term often used as code for the white supremacist movement. Though members are celebrating his victory, he said, “It’s not a group I want to energize. And if they are energized, I want to look into it and find out why.”

- Spoke positively not only of fellow Republicans in Congress—“Right now they are in love with me”—but also of President Barack Obama, who he said is “looking to do absolutely the right thing for the country in terms of transition.”



President-elect Donald Trump waves to a crowd in the lobby of the New York Times building following a meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, in New York.

Trump, who left late Tuesday to spend Thanksgiving at his estate in Florida, also continued to work to populate his incoming administration, officially asking GOP presidential rival Ben Carson to head the Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to a person familiar with the offer who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss the deliberations publicly. Carson is expected to respond after the holiday.

Adviser Kellyanne Conway said earlier on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” that Trump is “thinking of many different things as he prepares to become the president of the United States, and things that sound like the campaign aren’t among them.”

His interview comments on a possible prosecution of his former foe Clinton stood in stark contrast to his incendiary rhetoric throughout the campaign, during which he accused her breaking laws with

her email practices and angrily barked at her that “you’d be in jail” if he were president.

“I don’t want to hurt the Clintons, I really don’t,” Trump said in the interview. Sympathetically, he said, “She went through a lot and suffered greatly in many different ways.”

Though he declined to definitively rule out a prosecution, he said, “It’s just not something that I feel very strongly about.”

Trump had vowed throughout the campaign to use his presidential power to appoint a special prosecutor to probe his Democratic rival for both her reliance on a private email server as secretary of state and what he called pay-for-play schemes involving the Clinton Foundation. Adviser Conway signaled to congressional Republicans earlier Tuesday that they should abandon their years of vigorous probes of Clinton’s email practices and her actions at the time of the terror attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

Tennessee crash revives debate over school bus seat belts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A crash that killed five children in Tennessee is reviving discussion over whether school buses—considered among the safest vehicles on the road because of their height and bulk—should also be equipped with seat belts.

Only six states require seat belts on large buses. Many others, including Tennessee, have considered but dropped such legislation in recent years out of concerns including cost.

Among those saying it is now time to reconsider is Tennessee state Rep. Joanne Favors, who responded to the scene of Monday’s crash in Chattanooga and was shaken by the sight of the yellow bus on its side, sliced through by a tree. Police say the driver, who has been charged with five counts of vehicular ho-

micide, was speeding along a narrow, winding road when he crashed.

The bus did not have seat belts, and NTSB officials said it was too soon to know whether they would have made a difference.

Seat belt legislation introduced after two students and an aide died in a 2014 school bus crash in Knoxville did not make it out of committee, said Favors, a Chattanooga Democrat.

“I think it’s a bit asinine to not require that on school buses,” she said.

Costs explain some of the reluctance. Federal agencies have estimated the price of lap and shoulder belts at \$7,000 to \$10,000 per bus. But some say the design and conspicuous color of the buses keep children safe enough, with fatalities averaging only about five

per year nationwide. Nearly 500,000 buses carry more than 25 million students daily, according to the NTSB.

“The children are protected like eggs in an egg carton—compartmentalized, and surrounded with padding and structural integrity to secure the entire container,” The American School Bus Council says on its website. “The seat backs are raised, and the shell is reinforced for protection against impact.”

Bus drivers themselves have raised concerns that seat belts could trap panicked or disoriented students in an emergency, such as a fire, and that it would be next to impossible to make sure that students keep their belts properly fastened, the National Education Association said after surveying its member drivers.

Asia

Thailand is trying to stimulate economy by giving cash to poor

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand’s military government on Tuesday approved a one-time payout for low-income people in an effort to stimulate the country’s weak economy.

People who make less than 30,000 baht (\$846) a year will receive 3,000 baht (\$86), while people who make 30,000 to 100,000 baht (\$846 to \$2,821) a year will receive 1,500 baht (\$42).

The measure was approved at the weekly Cabinet meeting, but no date was set for its implementation.

The payments are earmarked for 5.8 million people, excluding rice farmers. They will instead benefit from a recently approved \$1.5 billion government subsidy paying them to temporarily store their rice so that supplies and prices of

the country’s staple crop remain stable.

The new cash handout plan will be used in accordance with other measures to help low-income people, such as free public transportation services.

“Don’t think the government is just giving out free money,” Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said. “This is a way to support those of low-income in other professions other than farmers because I care for people of all professions.”

The rice subsidy has been criticized because it resembles a program for which former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is being tried on grounds of corruption, which she denies. She has also been ordered to pay 35.7 billion baht (\$1 billion) to compensate the government for its

alleged losses.

Critics of the junta, which came to power by staging a coup against Yingluck’s Pheu Thai Party-led government in May 2014, say it is simply emulating populist policies it had criticized civilian politicians for enacting.

Economic growth has stagnated under the junta. Prayuth said he hopes the cash handouts will be spent and will help boost the economy. Consumer spending has dropped since King Bhumibol Adulyadej died on Oct. 13, initiating a year of mourning for the government and curtailing public entertainment events in the month since his death.

Prayuth also said the minimum wage would rise in 2017.

3 Indian soldiers killed near Kashmir frontier with Pakistan

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Three Indian soldiers were killed Tuesday along the highly militarized de facto border that divides the disputed region of Kashmir between India and Pakistan, army officials said.

Army spokesman Col. Rajesh Kalia said the attackers also mutilated the body of one soldier in Machil sector in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

“Retribution will be heavy for this cowardly act,” he said.

Kalia did not specify if the attack was carried out by Pakistani soldiers or rebels fighting since 1989 against Indian rule in the region.

In the past, the Indian army has blamed a combination of the Pakistani army’s border

action team and militants for carrying out operations along the Line of Control.

Following the attack, heavy cross-border firing and shelling began at several posts in Machil sector.

An Indian army officer, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with military rules, said the three soldiers were ambushed by a team of attackers who came from the Pakistani side.

Pakistan’s army insisted that it only returned fire after coming under attack near the Line of Control.

Also Tuesday, Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry lodged a protest with India over continued cease-fire violations in Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have

regularly traded fire in recent months in the Himalayan region, which is claimed by both in its entirety.

Tensions have been running high since militants attacked an Indian army base in Kashmir in September. India blamed Pakistan for supporting the militants and said it carried out “surgical strikes” against militants in the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir.

Pakistan dismissed the claim and called on India to produce evidence to back it up.

Both sides accuse the other of initiating the firing.

Two of the three wars between India and Pakistan since 1947 have been fought over their competing claims to Kashmir.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Dalai Lama: I have no worries about Trump’s election

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia (AP)—Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama says he has “no worries” about Donald Trump’s election as U.S. president and expects the businessman will align his policies with global realities. Commenting at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Mongolia, the leader of Tibetan Buddhism says he looks forward to meeting Trump at some point following the Jan. 20 inauguration. The 81-year-old monk says he has always regarded the U.S. as the leading nation of the “free world” and wasn’t concerned about remarks

made by Trump during the election campaign. Some of those comments have been cited as offensive to Muslims, Hispanics and other U.S. minority groups. China accuses the Dalai Lama of seeking to spit Tibet from China and had demanded Mongolia scrap his visit.

Drug dealer says he gave money to PH senator, police

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A self-confessed drug dealer, whose father was killed in an alleged gun fight in prison, has testified before a Philippine Senate investigation that he provided police officials and an opposition senator mil-

lions of pesos in protection money. Rolando “Kerwin” Espinosa Jr. said Wednesday that he gave 8 million pesos (\$160,000) last year to Sen. Leila de Lima’s bodyguard. De Lima was a former justice secretary who President Rodrigo Duterte earlier alleged had collected money from drug lords through her bodyguard, who was also her lover, to fund her senatorial campaign. De Lima, who has initiated an investigation into Duterte’s deadly anti-drug campaign, has denied receiving drug money and said she does not know Espinosa. Duterte’s anti-drug campaign has left more than 4,000 suspected addicts and pushers dead since July.

World

Syrian group: Rebels preventing refugees from fleeing Aleppo

BEIRUT (AP)—A Syrian monitoring group alleged Tuesday that rebels are preventing dozens of families from fleeing eastern Aleppo as Russian-backed government forces intensify their bombardment of the besieged quarter.

Such claims are difficult to verify and often distorted owing to the propaganda value of the matter. Syrian and Russian state media maintain that rebels are holding the enclave's 275,000 remaining inhabitants hostage to use as human shields, even as the government's air force pounds the east's hospitals and first responder groups.

Opposition outlets on the other hand want to show that civilians will never accept returning to the government's heavy-handed rule. Russia has backed Syrian President Bashar Assad with vast military support as he fights to put

down an uprising that is approaching its sixth year. Over 300,000 people have been killed in the raging war.

A resident of Aleppo's frontline Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood corroborated the report by the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group, which maintains a network of contacts among both government and anti-government institutions.

Hajj Mohammed al-Jasim told The Associated Press his uncles' families were trying to cross from the Bustan al-Basha neighborhood in the east to the predominantly Kurdish enclave of Sheikh Maqsoud.

"They've wanted to cross for a while because the circumstances have become very difficult," said al-Jasim, who confirmed his location near the al-Riz crossing via phone location services.

He said his relatives told

him they were prepared to cross during the day but were advised by three rebel groups to wait until dark.

"Then in the evening, (the rebels) began to fire at the crossing" to prevent passage, al-Jasim said. He said about fifty families were waiting to cross.

The autonomous Kurdish defense forces, the YPG, have promised housing in Sheikh Maqsoud to any families who cross, or secure passage on to opposition-held Azaz or Kurdish-held Afrin, two towns north of Aleppo, according to the al-Jasim.

The Observatory reported 100 families are waiting to cross, while Ahmad Hiso Araj, a political official for the YPG-aligned Syrian Democratic Forces, said 250 civilians were prepared to go. He said they were communicating with their relatives in Sheikh Maqsoud to evacuate Bustan al-Basha.

Iraqi forces move to retake another Mosul neighborhood

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—Iraqi troops gained a foothold Tuesday in another neighborhood in the northern city of Mosul after fierce battles against Islamic State militants dug in behind heavy fortifications, according to a top Iraqi commander.

A new analysis, meanwhile, has found that there is a high risk that IS will deploy chemical weapons against Mosul civilians or Iraqi troops fighting to retake the city. According to IHS Markit, the extremist group has used chemical weapons at least 52 times in Iraq and Syria since 2014, including 19 times in the Mosul area alone.

Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil, of the Iraqi special forces, told The Associated Press that

IS fighters were firing rockets and mortars as his forces "cautiously" advanced in the densely populated Zohour neighborhood. "There are too many civilians still living there," he said.

Iraqi troops began their siege of Zohour on Sunday as they fortified their positions in neighborhoods already retaken in eastern Mosul. Suicide bombings, sniper fire and concerns over the safety of civilians—there are 1 million still in Mosul—have combined to slow down progress in the campaign to liberate the city, which began Oct. 17.

Mosul is Iraq's second-largest city and the largest to have fallen to the militants. Most gains in the campaign so far have been made by the

special forces operating east of the Tigris River. Other forces, including the Kurdish peshmerga and volunteer Sunni militiamen, are advancing on the city from different directions, and the U.S.-led coalition is providing airstrikes and other support.

A coalition airstrike on Monday destroyed a major bridge over the Tigris in the southern part of Mosul, cutting IS supply lines to the east bank, where most of the fighting is taking place. The coalition has destroyed three bridges in Mosul, and Iraqi officers said the two remaining bridges in the city are also likely to be hit. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Trump wants Farage to represent UK in US but May says no

LONDON (AP)—Donald Trump has a plan for making the vaunted relationship between Britain and the U.S. even more special: Make the impish acting leader of the UK Independence Party, Nigel Farage, British ambassador in Washington.

Prime Minister Theresa May has another idea—leave British appointments to the government, thank you very much.

Her representatives Tuesday quickly shot down Trump's extraordinarily undiplomatic initiative, which was expressed in a tweet the night before by the U.S. president-elect.

"Many people would like to see @Nigel-Farage represent Great Britain as their Ambassador to the United States. He would do a great job!" Trump said.

But the Farage farrago suggests that Trump and the British prime minister aren't off to a warm start, and that, in the Trump era, Farage will be a force to be reckoned with.

Trump's unusual effort to pressure the British government into naming Farage to what is widely viewed as its most prestigious diplomatic post focused new attention on the unorthodox UKIP figure who played a key role in

convincing British voters to leave the European Union in the June referendum.

Foreign Minister Boris Johnson and others said there was no way Farage would be chosen—and some in Parliament had a few laughs at the prospect—prompting a wounded Farage to accuse May and her Cabinet of living in the past and slowing down the Brexit process. He said their personal dislike for him was hurting Britain.

"The world has changed and it's time that Downing Street did too," Farage said on the pro-Trump Breitbart website.

Environment

What scientists learned about whale sharks from the DNA they left behind in seawater

By **KAREN KAPLAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Whale sharks are the largest fish in the ocean, but that doesn't mean they're easy to study. Scientists hoping to learn about them must spy on them from the air, tag them with devices so they can be tracked via satellite or sneak up on them to collect tissue samples for DNA analysis.

But there may be an easier way.

Researchers from Denmark and Qatar were able to learn about a group of whale sharks in the Persian Gulf simply by gathering the seawater around them and analyzing the "environmental DNA" it contained.

With 20 samples of seawater, the research team was able to show that the recently discovered group of about 200 whale sharks was more closely related to whale sharks from the tropical portions of the Indian and Pacific oceans than to the colonies in the Atlantic. They were also able to es-



TNS

A large whale shark in the ocean. Researchers say they learned about a group of whale sharks in the Persian Gulf by gathering the seawater around them and analyzing the "environmental DNA" it contained.

timate the number of breeding females in the population, according to a report published Monday in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*.

The surface seawater samples were collected from 15 spots around the Al Shaheen oil field, where the whale sharks had been observed. Most of the samples contained just 1.5 liters of water.

The researchers used DNA sequencing machines to decode the mitochondrial DNA

extracted from the water. Mitochondrial DNA contains relatively few genes that are found in the part of the cell that converts food into energy, and it's passed down from mother to child virtually unchanged.

By zeroing in on a few sections of the mitochondrial genome, they were able to gauge the genetic diversity of the Persian Gulf whale sharks and compare them to their cousins in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans.

Science Matters

Going to seed

Farmers face a harsh logic:
Pollen needs to reach plants' egg cells for a crop to develop

If that fails to happen,
plants do not produce large, mature seeds

Flowering plants' sex-substitute

Researchers have found that if plants cannot achieve fertilization (fusion of sperm and egg cells), larger seeds can still grow if just the material in the pollen tubes reaches the eggs.

Natural fertilization

- 1 Flowers have male and female tissues
Ovules (eggs) grow in the flower's pistil
- 2 Pollen (sperm) grows on stamen
- 3 Insects or wind carry pollen to top of pistil
Stamen
Pistil
- 4 Tube grows into pistil, carries pollen DNA to egg
- 4 Pollen DNA joins with DNA in egg, and fertilized seed grows
Stored starch (human food source)
Embryo (becomes new plant)

The POEM process*

A previously unknown, unexplored function of the pollen tube

How seeds can develop without being fertilized

- 1 Pollen tube reaches ovule, inserts and release proteins called **pollen tube content (PTC)**
- 2 Seed coat forms, and seed grows larger than unfertilized seeds

*Pollen tube-dependent ovule enlargement morphology

What finding may mean

Opens a new understanding of how seeds can develop without fertilization

May lead to crops that produce better seeds in extreme environments where fertilization often fails

Source: Nagoya University Institute of Transformative Bio-Molecules; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

For Kanye West, a swirling, eventful year ends in a hospital

NEW YORK (AP)—It's been a hectic year for Kanye West. There was a new album that had a tortured, months-long release. Two fashion shows that were plagued by last-minute changes and long delays. There also was the reopening of a bitter feud with Taylor Swift, an ambitious U.S. concert tour, a newborn

son, and a harrowing robbery of his wife.

"When was the last time I wasn't in a hurry," West asks on the song "Real Friends" from the new CD "The Life of Pablo." On another track, West admonishes his less industrious friends: "Y'all sleeping on me, huh? Had a good snooze?"

A relentless schedule and

a churning life in the media glare with his wife, Kim Kardashian, apparently took their toll on the Grammy Award-winner. West was taken to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles on Monday afternoon for stress and exhaustion.

"In the last 12 months, there probably hasn't been anyone

more in the spotlight than Kanye and his wife," said Bob Williams, the CEO/COO of Burns Entertainment & Sports Marketing, which specializes in celebrity procurement and music licensing.



West

"I don't know any celebrity who has been under more scrutiny than the two of them are," Williams added. "That creates tremendous pressure from the outside—expectations to perform, pressure

to respond. It takes time. It takes effort."

In the days leading to his hospitalization, West's behavior was somewhat erratic. On Saturday in Sacramento, California, he ended his show after just four songs but

not before a 10-minute tirade about Beyonce, Jay Z, Hillary Clinton, Mark Zuckerberg, the radio and MTV.

West also flooded his Instagram account with nearly 100 fashion photos, many snaps

of photos that were out of focus and poorly cropped. Then Sunday's concert in the Los Angeles area was canceled just a few hours before it was to start; West soon decided to scrap the entire tour. Requests for comment from the rapper's record label have gone unanswered.

Chuck Creekmur, the founder of AllHipHop.com, has met West several times and while he has no inside knowledge into the artist's mind, he said it feels like the relentless publicity and stress of creativity may be too much.

Lack of ID delays Ellen's entry into White House for award

WASHINGTON (AP)—Who says Presidential Medal of Freedom honorees have to bring an ID to get into the White House?

Apparently, the Secret Service does, as comedian Ellen DeGeneres experienced a delay in getting into a ceremony in which she and 20 others

were honored with the nation's highest civilian award.

DeGeneres, sitting on a park bench before the ceremony, tweeted, "They haven't let me in to the White House yet because I forgot my ID." She added, "(hashtag)NotJoking."

Not to worry: DeGeneres

made it in time.

President Barack Obama said in honoring her that she has a way of making people laugh at something rather than someone, "except when I danced on her show." Obama also praised her courage in coming out as gay nearly two decades ago.



AP

Actress, comedian, and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, glances at President Barack Obama as she is presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, in Washington.

FBI: No charges for Brad Pitt in alleged flight dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The FBI says it will not file charges against Brad Pitt stemming from an alleged dispute with his family aboard a private flight.

The FBI released a statement Tuesday saying it has reviewed the circumstances of the accusations and will not pursue further investigation.

Sources familiar with the allegations have said they cen-

ter on the actor's treatment of his 15-year-old son, Maddox, during a private flight in September.

Angelina Jolie Pitt filed for divorce a few days later. Her attorney said it was "for the health of the family."

A spokesman for Pitt had no comment Tuesday. A representative for Jolie Pitt did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Custody of the actors' six children has been the primary issue in their divorce. Jolie Pitt is seeking sole custody of the children, while Pitt is seeking joint custody. A final agreement will be part of the couple's divorce judgment when it is entered.

California law favors joint custody, although details about custody arrangements are rarely made public in celebrity divorce cases.

Reports: Kanye West is hospitalized in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kanye West has been hospitalized in Los Angeles after abruptly canceling the last 21 dates of his national tour.

E! News, which is part of the E! network that airs the Kardashian family reality show and its spinoffs, reported that West was hospitalized Monday afternoon after his personal doctor called 911.

A rep for the E! network said Tuesday that E! cameras were not filming when the 911 call was made and that they

are not filming at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, where West is being treated.

A spokeswoman for West's wife, Kim Kardashian, had no comment Tuesday.

Los Angeles police told The Associated Press on Monday that they responded to a home in West Hollywood, California, and a person there was taken by ambulance to the hospital and placed on a psychiatric hold. Police did not identify the patient as West.

Kardashian had been ex-

pected to make her first public appearance Monday night since she was tied up and robbed at gunpoint last month in Paris. It was to come at the Angel Ball, a charity event in New York honoring her late father, Robert Kardashian.

But amid the reports about West, she did not show up.

Her mother, Kris Jenner, and sisters Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian were on hand.

When asked how the couple was doing, Jenner simply smiled and said, "They're good."

Stocking up on staples make family happy for the holidays

DEAR ABBY: With the holiday shopping season already here, may I suggest another way to look at gift giving? We all want to give the perfect gift to family members. Some gifts can cost a lot of money and some not. I would like people to take a step back and consider who they are buying for.

I stopped buying gifts for my parents and sister 10 years ago. Because their money is tight, I have been stocking their pantries with food and staples. I am well off enough financially that I have been able to fill their freezers with enough meat to last three months or more.

At Thanksgiving, my husband and I load up our car and bring the meat with us. Then my mom, sister, grandma and I go to the grocery store and buy staples for the pantry and what we need to make freezer meals. Abby, this takes so much pressure off them.

Food is expensive. So instead of buying Dad that new TV or sound system, or your sister that designer handbag, pause and take a hard look at their situation. Sometimes the need for basics outweighs the desire for the latest and greatest gadgets. Even paying a bill or two can help. Or gift cards for groceries.

I never expect presents from my family; all I want is for them

to have some freedom in their lives from the daily worries.

NEW WAY OF GIFTING

DEAR NEW WAY: I'm pleased to share your letter with readers who may be wondering what to give their relatives at Christmas. And I'm sure that your generosity is deeply appreciated by your family. Thank you for writing.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been dining out with another couple about twice a month. We have not been able to entertain them at our home because it is not easily accessible and the man is in a wheelchair. Over the past several months his health has declined. His mind is sharp, but his body is weakening.

The last time we met them for dinner, we couldn't understand what he was saying, so his wife "interpreted." Also, when he tries to eat, the food falls out of his mouth onto a bib and from there to the floor.

Abby, we just don't know what to do. We really like this couple, but it is nauseating to watch him eat with food falling out of his mouth. Plus, the other patrons at the restaurants are starting to stare. We look forward to your advice.

PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO STARE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR PEOPLE: If this couple ever needed understanding friends, it's now. Because you are embarrassed to be seen with them in a restaurant, consider bringing a take-out meal to their home. Granted, watching your friend struggle is painful. But if he's going downhill as rapidly as you say, he needs your support more than ever, and so does his wife. And when he's gone, you'll know you did the right thing.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



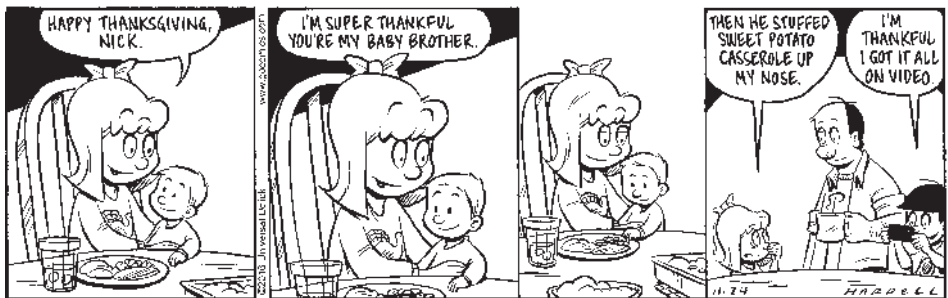
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Body powder

5 Plant seeds

8 "Hey!"

12 Frost

13 Eastern "way"

14 Needle case

15 "The King and I" role

16 Guitar's kin

17 Entice

18 Partner (with)

20 Fern seeds

22 Omega predecessor

23 Flavor enhancer, for short

24 Lip

27 Secret files

32 Literary rep

33 Parcel of land

34 Rowing need

DOWN

35 Favor-asker's plea

38 Division word

39 Service charge

40 Yule quaff

42 Malign

45 Platitude

49 Tel —

50 Comic DeLuise

52 Buffalo's lake

53 Actress Russo

54 "CSI" evidence

55 Poet Teasdale

56 Work units

57 TV chef Martin

58 Tizzy

1 Foolproof

11 Cravats

19 "People" rival

21 Evening hrs.

24 Pouch

25 Past

26 Thanks-giving staple

28 Odometer start

29 Fall guy?

30 Squealer

31 "No seats"

36 Foliage

37 Rep.'s rival

38 "Suppose so"

41 Either mate

42 Challenge

43 Always

44 Vortex

46 Persia, today

47 iPhone voice

48 Vegan's no-no

51 "— Clear Day"

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	H	A	B	A	D	S	A	F	E	W
U	I	L	I	F	F	B	I	A	H	
R	F	F	F	F	A	I	D	A	V	
A	T	S	E	A	F	L	U	T	E	S
		P	R	E	P	E	L	F		
H	E	S	A	L	V	A	E	G	G	
B	R	A	T	H	R	E	A	D	E	M
I	R	S	S	P	A	S	A	S	A	P
S	A	F	A	R	I	S	T	A	I	N
I	D	O	L	F	L	I	M	I	L	A
R	I	O	T	F	E	D	U	G	L	I
E	N	D	S	Y	D	S	I	A	S	

Yesterday's answer 11-24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20	21		
			22					23		
24	25	26			27	28	29		30	31
32				33					34	
35			36	37				38		
			39				40	41		
42	43			44		45		46	47	48
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Hyland, 26; Katherine Heigl, 38; Colin Hanks, 39; Pete Best, 75.

Happy Birthday: Stay focused on what you know and how you can use your past experience to gain ground in the future. Welcome change and be prepared to use any opportunity to step into a leadership position. A keen sense of justice and fair play will help you build the support you need to follow through with your plans. Showing consistency will help you win favors. Your numbers are 2, 8, 17, 24, 31, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be drawn to subjects, events and activities that allow you to use your skills and talents. Meetings will help you make a decision about your future. A change will occur in how you do business and pursue your goals. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do your best to follow instructions. If you try to do things your way, you will meet with disapproval. Don't get angry when you should be keeping busy and getting things done. Change may not be wanted, but it's in your best interest. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Travel, meetings, interviews and expanding your awareness will bring about a positive change to your relationships with others, as well as to the way you advance. Travel and networking will lead to excitement and a new beginning. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Problems will surface if you make assumptions or unpredictable changes that disrupt your plans or the promises you have made to someone.

Think before you take action, and look for unique solutions that will benefit everyone. Offer peace, not discord. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your well-rounded outlook will encourage you to help bring about positive changes. Networking and sharing information will bring about partnerships that will lead to a better environment and community for you and your family. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Examine the way you have done things in the past, and you'll recognize a pattern that has led to your current position. Focus on yourself and what needs to be done to position you for success. Don't say you can't when you can. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotions will rise to the surface, leaving you in a predicament if you cannot make up your mind. Lean toward the path that offers knowledge, learning and travel over sitting at home and waiting for change to happen. Choose to be self-assertive. ***

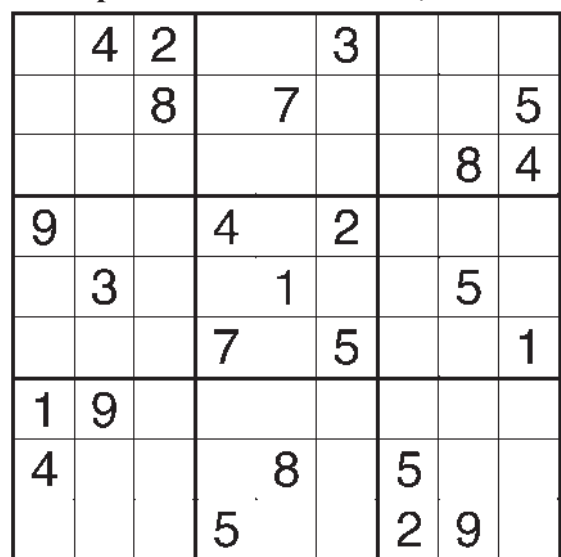
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Personal gains and improvements can be yours if you are innovative and willing to try something different. Don't get pulled into a situation that will lead to anger or arguments. Do your best to stay focused on what's important to you. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An unexpected opportunity will come your way. Don't hesitate to get involved. Someone's insecurity will flare up, making it difficult for you to make good and honest decisions. Follow your heart and move in the direction that beckons you. *****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



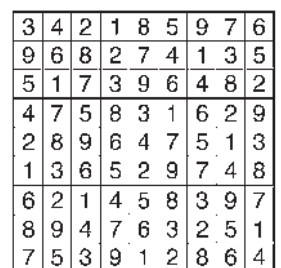
Difficulty Level ★★

11/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Not everyone will see things your way. Map out your plan in a way that's easy to understand. Your aim should be to advance, not waste time debating with others. Do your own thing if others don't cooperate. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Check out a deal that's been offered and negotiate what you will need in order to say yes. Don't sell yourself short or give in to someone who downplays your importance. Change and opportunity are highlighted. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your promises reasonable. Once an offer is made, you will have to honor your position. Concentrate on making the changes that will encourage personal growth and greater support. Romance is featured, but don't try to buy love. ***

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, caring and generous. You are adaptable and curious.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE CILIANAN DIAMOND

Solution: 3 letters

B T E C U T S H S I T I R B C
L U A U O T S E G R A L O I L
U O C O Q L P E A R G T R L E
E C Y K B I O I B R H O O L A
W T A A I M N R O A T E Y I R
H A D S L N A U L S D P A O A
I H S J T G E I E E A L N L
T E T C U H Y H T S S H T W U
E D R H B T P A A S T S Y O G
N R I E I A R T T M Y A M R N
G A B R L B R O K C C R C A
L L U A E A N W O R H T A A T
A P C L E E L K R A P S H M C
N E E H S I R T H O M A S E E
D C O R O N A T I O N I N E R

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Asscher, Best, Billion, Birthday, Blue White, Botha, British, Buckingham, Carats, Celebrated, Clear, Colorless, Coronation, Crown, Cuts, England, Heart, Historic, Jubilee, Largest, Loyalty, Mary, Mother, Nine, Octahedral, Palace, Pearl, Purity, Rectangular, Rock, Rough, Royalty, Shape, Sir Thomas, Sparkle, Steamboat, Stones, Thrown, Train, Unique

Yesterday's Answer: Fix

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TINIAN CASINO GAMING
CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

a. Call to Order

b. Roll Call

c. Adoption of Agenda

d. Adoption of Minutes

1) October 28, 2016

2) September 30, 2016

3) August 13, 2015 [with continuation on August 14, August 18, and August 19, 2015]

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. REPORTS

a. Chair's Report

b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. NMI Employees' DC Retirement Plan

b. Personnel Regulations § 170-30.5-510
Leave Balances from Previous Employment

c. In the Matter of the Petition of GCA Leisure, LLC. To intervene in the licensure application of Tinian Entertainment Corp.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Settlement of Rental Claims

b. Tinian Entertainment Company – Conditional License

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Arena returns as US coach, replacing Klinsmann

By RONALD BLUM
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruce Arena was a decade removed from the U.S. national team when he received a telephone call from U.S. Soccer Federation Secretary General Dan Flynn on Sunday asking him to meet with USSF President Sunil Gulati the following day.

By midday Tuesday, the winningest coach in the team's history regained the job he had not wanted to give up.

"I never expected to be back in this role the way it came about over the last 48 hours," Arena explained. "I hate to say this now to Sunil: I would've done this for free."

A day after Jurgen Klinsmann was fired following two losses that began the final round of World Cup qualifying, Arena agreed to a contract running through the 2018 tournament in Russia.

With the Americans 0-2 at this stage for the first time, the USSF wants to spark a turnaround when competition resumes March 24 with a home game against Honduras followed four days later with a match at Panama. The 65-year-old Arena, inducted into the U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame in 2010, starts work Dec. 1.

"We need to build the chemistry of this team and have a common goal and really work on a team concept," he said during a telephone news conference. "I really believe individually and positionally we have good players and we've



In this June 23, 2006, file photo, United States team manager Bruce Arena, right, speaks to journalists about being eliminated from the 2006 soccer World Cup at a news conference in Hamburg, Germany, as press officer Michael Kammarman listens at left.

round of the 2014 World Cup, where the Americans lost to Belgium 2-1 in extra time.

Gulati cited three disappointments that led to Klinsmann's firing: not qualifying for the 2017 Confederations Cup, the under-23 team's failure to reach this year's Olympics and the poor start to the final round of qualifying in the North and Central American and Caribbean region.

The U.S. would have reached the Confederations Cup by winning last year's Gold Cup, but Jamaica upset the Americans in the semifinals, and the U.S. lost a play-off to Mexico.

"Really starting at the Gold Cup, we've had some very up-and-down results," Gulati said. "The Gold Cup was a big disappointment for everyone: for Jurgen, for the players, for our fans."

Two weeks ago, Gulati said he expected Klinsmann to keep his job through the 2018 World Cup. But Mexico won 2-1 in Columbus, Ohio, the first U.S. home loss in qualifying since 2001. That was followed by a 4-0 defeat last week in Costa Rica, the Americans' first four-goal loss in qualifying since 1980.

"None of us expected the two results we got," Gulati said.

He held a series of conversations with USSF board members after last Tuesday's defeat, made the decision Sunday and joined Flynn for a Monday meeting in Los Angeles with Klinsmann.

While Gulati returned to New York, Flynn remained in Los Angeles to negotiate Arena's contract, which was agreed to at 11:30 a.m. EST Tuesday and approved by the board 15 minutes later. Arena's return was announced at 1:21 p.m.

A star forward for Germany in the 1990s, Klinsmann was criticized by some—including Arena—for his use of foreign-born players. Five German-Americans were on his 23-man World Cup roster.

"If I made those comments, I certainly don't believe that that's my attitude," Arena said. "I believe anyone that has a passport in the United States is certainly eligible to play for our national team, and I embrace all players that are eligible to play. I just want to make sure their heart is in the right place and when they place that U.S. jersey on they're playing for that crest on their shirt."

just got to get them working together as a team.

"There are no real secrets on how you build good teams: It takes a lot of hard work, it takes communication, it takes discipline and it takes some talent, and I think we have enough talent to build a good team and end up in Russia 2018. It's going to take a little time, a little bit patience and a lot of hard work."

Arena first took over as national team coach after the 1998 World Cup and led the U.S. to a 71-30-29 record. Gulati fired him, failed to reach a deal with Klinsmann and then

brought in Bob Bradley.

"I don't view it as Bruce 2, but sort of Bruce 2.0," Gulati said. "I think he's got far more experience than he did when he had the national team the first go-round. He's proven and re-proven many times at all levels of the game in the United States that he's an extraordinarily capable and successful coach."

A wisecracking Brooklynite known for blunt talk and sarcasm, Arena coached the University of Virginia to five NCAA titles from 1978-95, then led D.C. United

to championships in Major League Soccer's first two seasons before losing in the 1998 final. He guided the Americans to the team's best World Cup finish since 1930, a 1-0 loss to Germany in the 2002 quarterfinals.

Arena was let go after the team's first-round elimination by Ghana in 2006. He coached MLS's New York Red Bulls from July 2006 to November 2007, then was hired the following August by the Galaxy. He led that team to MLS titles in 2011, 2012 and 2014.



After raucous weekend, NFL will likely be back in Mexico



MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican fans welcomed the NFL in raucous fashion, and it probably won't be the last time Azteca Stadium hosts American futbol.

Next time, however, they'll try to ban laser pointers.

Nearly 80,000 fans came to see the Raiders defeat the Houston Texans in a 27-20 win Monday night in what felt like a Raiders home game.

The crowd harassed the Texans and supported the Raiders, one of the most popular NFL teams in Mexico.

The success of the game and the full weekend of events could entice the league to bring more games to the Mexican capital.

WILD FANS

The NFL says 76,473 fans were at the game, and the atmosphere was very different from the more neutral crowd for games in London. Thousands of other football fans attended a weekend-long

fan fest.

Although many wore silver and black, it was clear that the Cowboys, Texans, Steelers and Broncos also have fans south of the border.

"Besides the game, we had an excellent trip here, great experience for our players. Unbelievable crowd. Just a really cool atmosphere for both teams," Texans coach Bill O'Brien said. "It was a great trip as far as that's concerned."

Before the game, there was concern that Mexican fans could boo the U.S. national anthem because of the political tension since Donald Trump was elected president, but the crowd did not.

A SOCCER CROWD

The fans' behavior was similar to the atmosphere when the Mexican national team or local club America play their soccer matches in Azteca Stadium.

"I was able to play at Wembley Stadium in my rookie year, and then being able to play

here, I mean it was amazing," Raiders quarterback Derek Carr said. "There's so much history and so much rowdiness. I love soccer, so it gave me kind of a soccer feel."

Throughout the game, the crowd chanted a gay slur that is common in soccer matches when the opposing goalkeeper clears the ball.

This year, FIFA has fined Mexico three times for the chant. The NFL did not comment about the slur.

Texans quarterback Brock Osweiler was targeted by a green laser on several plays, something that is common against visiting soccer teams playing at Azteca.

"Certainly, having a laser zoomed in on your eyeball definitely affects how you play," Osweiler said.

THE MEXICO RAIDERS?

The Raiders are exploring a move to Las Vegas, but in the meantime, they could consider another trip back to Mexico, where they clearly

have a devoted fan base.

According to the NFL office in Mexico, the Raiders are the fifth-most popular team in the country. They were clearly more popular Monday night than the Texans.

Yon de Luisa, sporting vice president of the Televisa media company which owns Azteca Stadium, has said the deal with the NFL could include two future games in the venue.

THE AZTECA RENOVATIONS

Azteca Stadium, famous for hosting two World Cup finals, was renovated with a \$12 million investment for its 50th anniversary and to celebrate club America's 100th year. As part of the deal to bring the NFL back, Televisa had to comply with several upgrade requests by the league.

Azteca built new football-only locker rooms, installed new seats and boxes that reduced its capacity from over 100,000, and added a new wireless internet network. The stadium still needs ma-

jor renovations in other areas: the parking lot is insufficient, there are no escalators and the stadium lights and most of the ramps are 50 years old.

ALTITUDE

Before the game, Mexico City's altitude of 7,380 feet above sea level played was a cause for concern for both teams, who arrived a day earlier to avoid the effects as recommended by the NFL Mexico office.

Raiders wide receiver Michael Crabtree had trouble breathing, and the Raiders called a timeout for their players to catch a break late in the game.

"I mean you talk about the elements is always a factor, but at the same time you talk about resiliency and the coaches having us prepared," Raiders defensive end Khalil Mack said. "... It was a weight that we could fight through and you've seen that throughout the finishing of the game and especially in the fourth quarter."

Young's late 3-pointer pushes Lakers past Thunder



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nick Young hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 5 seconds to play, and the Los Angeles Lakers blew a 14-point lead in the final minutes before rallying for a 111-109 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

Young finished with 17 points and Jordan Clarkson had 18 for the Lakers, who survived a monster performance by Russell Westbrook in the final minutes.

After Westbrook scored 17 points in a five-minute span to trim the Lakers' big lead to one point, Steven Adams scored on a go-ahead putback of Westbrook's miss with 13.9 seconds to play.

The Lakers then passed the ball around the perimeter before Young coolly drained his fourth 3-pointer of the night.

Westbrook missed a long shot shortly before the buzzer.

The Los Angeles native finished with 34 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds, barely missing his sixth triple-double of his amazing season.

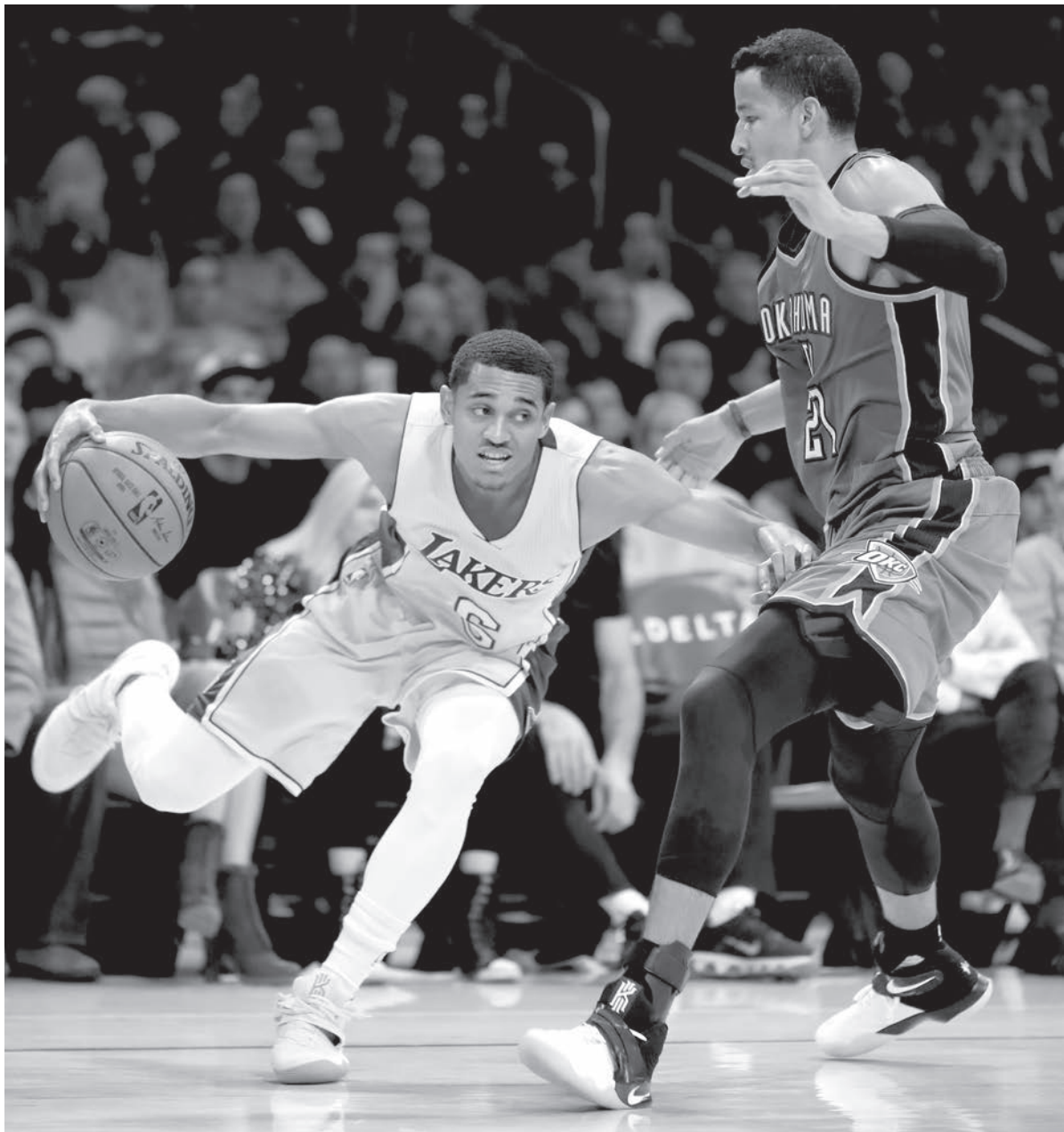
Timofey Mozgov scored 16 points for the Lakers, who ended a two-game skid with their seventh win in 11 games overall.

Adams had 20 points, including two baskets in the final minute, for the Thunder, who have lost six of eight.

Jose Calderon hit four 3-pointers and scored a season-high 12 points while filling in for D'Angelo Russell, who will miss at least two games to rest his sore knee.

The Lakers jumped to a 13-point lead in the first quarter, hitting five 3-pointers while the Thunder went 0 for 7. Westbrook led the Thunder's comeback, but Young drained a 25-footer at the halftime buzzer to put the Lakers back ahead.

Los Angeles stretched its lead to a game-high 14 on Larry Nance Jr.'s fast-break dunk with 6:44 to play off



Los Angeles Lakers guard Jordan Clarkson, left, drives toward the basket against Oklahoma City Thunder forward Andre Roberson during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, in Los Angeles.

a give-and-go with Brandon Ingram, who had 11 points and played in the final minutes.

Westbrook's fourth 3-pointer of the night trimmed the Lakers' lead to 108-105 with 1:38 left.

Knicks 107, Blazers 103

In New York, Kristaps Porzingis had

31 points and nine rebounds, Derrick Rose scored six of his 18 points down the stretch, and the New York Knicks beat the Portland Trail Blazers 107-103 on Tuesday night.

Rose made the go-ahead basket with a little more than 3 minutes remaining and hit the jumper that clinched it with 6.8 seconds left.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 17 points despite a scoreless fourth quarter for the Knicks, who won their fifth straight at home. Brandon Jennings had 11 assists off the bench.

Damian Lillard scored 22 points for the Trail Blazers but fell to 4-1 at Madison Square Garden. CJ McCollum added 16 points.

Nuggets 110, Bulls 107

In Denver, rookie Jamal Murray scored a season-high 24 points, Will Barton hit two free throws with 9.5 seconds left and the Nuggets beat the Bulls.

It was Denver's 10th straight home win over the Bulls and its 16th in the last 17 meetings at Pepsi Center.

Butler had 35 points and eight rebounds for Chicago, which last won in Denver on Feb. 8, 2006. Dwyane Wade had 22 points after sitting out Sunday's game against the Lakers.

The Nuggets used a 22-0 run at the start of the second quarter to take a 41-31 lead. Murray had 15 of his 17 first half points in the period and Wilson Chandler scored 12 of his 16 in the second quarter.

The game was tied when Barton was fouled on a drive to the basket, and he hit two free throws left to give Denver a 109-107 lead. Isaiah Cannon shot an airball on a 3-point attempt and the Nuggets got the ball.

Pelicans 112, Hawks 94

In Atlanta, Tim Frazier had 21 points and 14 assists, Terrence Jones added 17 points and the Pelicans won their third straight game with a victory over the Hawks.

Pelicans forward Anthony Davis returned to begin the fourth quarter after bruising his right knee and missing the second and third periods. Davis, a three-time All-Star and the NBA's leading scorer, finished with 13 points.

New Orleans led by 20 at the end of the first quarter and never let up.

Dennis Schroder and Kyle Korver each scored 14 for the Hawks, who have lost three in a row. Atlanta was tied for the Eastern Conference lead last week but now begins a five-game road trip playing its worst basketball of the young season.

The Pelicans have won five of seven and are 3-0 since Jrue Holiday returned after missing the first 12 games to be with his sick wife.

Detroit Pistons announce plans to move downtown next season

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons are ready to move downtown—into what is already being billed as one of the most unique sports neighborhoods in the nation.

The Pistons formally announced plans Tuesday to move into Little Caesars Arena next season and share that new venue with the Detroit Red Wings, a relocation that would put all four of the city's major sports teams within a few blocks of each other. The arena is being built in the same part of downtown where the Tigers and Lions host their games at Comerica Park and Ford Field, respectively.

Tuesday's news conference was held in a room at Cass Tech High School that had a view of all three of those nearby sports venues.

"This is the only city now with all four teams in the

downtown area," Mayor Mike Duggan said. "You can walk within 10 minutes to all of them. You can go around the country, and there are cities where all four teams are somewhere in the border of their city. In Denver, they've got basketball and hockey and baseball downtown, and the Broncos play a mile outside."

Duggan said after moving downtown next season, the Pistons will have their headquarters and a practice facility in the city by 2018.

Duggan called the agreement for the Pistons to move "preliminary" and said final agreements would likely be approved early next year by Detroit's Downtown Development Authority, the Michigan Strategic Fund and the Detroit City Council. The agreement calls for a contribution of \$34.5 million from the DDA to cover modifications to

the new arena to accommodate an NBA team.

Duggan said by law, those funds can only be used for infrastructure and economic development downtown.

"These funds have to be spent on economic development purposes in this region, and we couldn't think of anything more important than bringing the Pistons back home," he said.

Michael LaFaive of the Michigan-based Mackinac Center for Public Policy was critical of the plan, saying taxpayers shouldn't be put in a position to back business ventures of private entrepreneurs.

"Let entrepreneurs risk their own resources and flourish or flounder on their own accord," he said in an email.

Duggan and Pistons owner Tom Gores were at the news conference, along with NBA

Commissioner Adam Silver and Ilitch Holdings President and CEO Christopher Ilitch. The Red Wings are owned by Mike and Marian Ilitch, and Gores said the opportunity to partner with them played a big role in the decision to move.

"I thought this would be a great partnership, and I would tell you, if I didn't feel it, then we have a home, and we would've stayed there," Gores said. "But there's a bigger picture here."

The Red Wings are in their final season at Joe Louis Arena before the NHL team moves to Little Caesars Arena. The Pistons have played at The Palace of Auburn Hills since 1988 and were at the Pontiac Silverdome for a decade before that.

The Pistons were downtown when they called Cobo Arena home from 1961-78 before heading to Pontiac and then Auburn Hills. The Palace

is about 30 miles from downtown Detroit.

"Watching our city decline over the years has been difficult, but emotionally, the most painful experiences were when our sports franchises either left town or tried to leave town," Duggan said.

The Lions also played at the Silverdome before moving to Ford Field in 2002. Now, the Pistons are eager to make the same move to downtown Detroit.

"We've seen these trends of our teams moving really from suburban areas outside of urban areas, back into downtown areas," Silver said. "Little Caesars Arena is just another fantastic example of that trend."

The Pistons' move is subject to NBA approval and is expected to be presented to the board of governors sometime after Jan. 1.

The Palace was built with

private funds by William Davidson, who owned the Pistons before his death in 2009. The team has won three championships in Auburn Hills, although the atmosphere slipped in recent years as the Pistons went through a rough stretch.

Detroit returned to the playoffs last season for the first time since 2009.

Gores bought the Pistons from Karen Davidson in 2011, and by that point, the team had become a suburban outlier, with the Lions having moved downtown to play alongside the Ilitch-owned Tigers and Red Wings.

Now, Gores is joining forces with the Ilitches and moving his team into that same area.

"This community is getting the world-class sports and entertainment district it deserves," Christopher Ilitch said. "A perfect addition to a city in the midst of an incredible and historic transformation."

COPSSA Volleyball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Grace Christian Academy 1's Joshua Pajarillaga, right, tosses the ball to set up Sebastian Camacho during the second set of their title game against Saipan International School 1 in the 2016-2017 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League last Tuesday at the Eagles court on Navy Hill.



Saipan International School 1's Jon Villagomez serves.



Saipan International School 1's Rei Sekiguchi makes a return.



Grace Christian Academy 1's Duane Torres goes up for a spike.



Grace Christian Academy 1's Sebastian Camacho and Hye Jin Eliot have their eyes on the ball.



Ji Min Woo bumps the ball, while teammate Sebastian Camacho looks on.



Saipan International School 1 coach Mili Saiki huddles with her players before the start of the second set.



Saipan International School 1 and Grace Christian Academy 1 players exchange high-fives after their game.



Arena returns
as US coach,
replacing
Klinsmann

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune Sports

Young's late
3-pointer
pushes Lakers
past Thunder

PAGE 29



32 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2016

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MP United keeps U17 crown



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Football Club escaped with a thrilling 4-3 victory over TanHoldings in a penalty shootout during the title-deciding game in the boys U17 division of the 2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

James Kim made the winning penalty kick, as he went for a quick shot (lower right 90) with TanHoldings goalie John Joseph Bucayo a step too late for the save. Kim was the sixth MP United player to attempt for the penalty kick.

TanHoldings was the first to step to the box with Joshua Galarion's shot blocked by MP United's Christopher Aninzo. MP United's Go Sekiguchi was next and he faltered, too, as the ball hit the right post (upper 90). An Anthony Fruit conversion handed Tan-



Holdings its first penalty point when his shot rolled to the left corner. MP United, which

took the U17 spring title this year, also scored in the ensuing play off Alex Park's shot.

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Over 60 juniors player join TanHoldings Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

More than 60 junior players will be seeing action in Week 1 of the 8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic that will kick off tomorrow at the various hotel courts on Saipan.

The boys U12 singles has the most player with

12. Richard Steele leads the seeded players in the division and is joined by No. 1 Daniel Kang, No. 3 Anthony Gregoire, and No. 4 Seung Won Lee. Completing the field are Jaehoon Son, Isaac Heo, Jun off tomorrow at the various hotel courts on Saipan. Wang, Andy Kim, Brandon Lee, Andrew Chung, Min Gi

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Mister, Chavez lead finishers

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REPORTER



Whispering Palms' Dylan Mister and Eucon International School's Andrei Kaithlynn Chavez ruled the elementary races in the Northern Marianas Athletics' 2016 All Schools Cross Country Championships held last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

Mister was the top overall finisher among the more than 50 runners in the elementary division (U7, U9, and U11 age groups) as he completed the one-kilometer course in 5:43. The Whispering Palms student went on to get the gold medal in the boys U11 division, while his schoolmate Max Church was ranked second after logging 5:44. Daniel Kang of Saipan Community School rounded out the Top 3 after submitting 6:29.

Other finishers in the U11 division were Eucon's John Yu (6:34), Agape Christian School's Jack Xue (6:46), San

Vicente Elementary School's Antonio Cabrera (8:06), and Agape's Ziheng Hu (8:25) and Jason Yang (9:34).



Chavez placed fourth overall, but first in the entire girls field after logging 5:46. She bagged the gold medal in the U9 age group, beating eight other participants. SCS' Hilah Bacani came in at second (6:10) and was followed by her schoolmate Jenny Zhang (6:45), Sheryne Yang (6:47), San Vicente's Rhietazayne Mendiola (7:27), Karmeann Cabrera (7:29), Agape's Mary Fu (8:03), and San Vicente's Tiana Villanueva (8:46) and Brynae Sablan (9:13).

Meanwhile, Agape's Angeline Quan, SCS' Katie Choi, and San Vicente's Kian Helgen and Kymo Porras were

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Whispering Palms' Dylan Mister paces two runners on his way to a first place finish overall in the elementary division of the Northern Marianas Athletics' 2016 All Schools Cross Country Championships held last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Richard Steele is seeded first in the boys U12 singles event in the 8th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic that will kick off tomorrow.